Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Review of Global Ireland

Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025



Global Ireland Review

Prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach
January 2026
www.gov.ie/globalireland

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FOREWORDS

Forewords



Foreword by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD

When Global Ireland was launched in 2018, we set out an ambitious vision: to double Ireland's global footprint and to ensure that our voice, our values, our expertise, and our perspective would be strengthened on the world stage. In the years since, the world has changed profoundly, and Ireland's place within it has grown and evolved.

The intervening period has brought challenges few could have foreseen such as the COVID-19 pandemic; Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine; and a deepening cycle of conflict in the Middle East. Major geopolitical shifts have altered how global powers approach trade, security, and the multilateral system.

Yet, against this backdrop, Global Ireland has delivered: steadily, strategically, and with real impact. We have opened 27 new diplomatic missions, strengthening our presence in every region. Some of our key missions have been expanded. The development of the Ireland House model has brought our diplomatic, enterprise, and cultural teams under one roof in key global centres, allowing Ireland to project a more coherent and compelling presence abroad.

This expansion has allowed us to use our global footprint more effectively. Post-Brexit, Ireland has diversified its trading relationships, reducing reliance on traditional partners and opening new opportunities for Irish businesses. Investments in our ports and airports have enabled this shift. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, tourism revenue has grown. Our cultural presence overseas has flourished—supporting Irish artists and helping us reach new audiences and deepen international connections.

Ireland had a successful term on the UN Security Council, enhancing our influence on key global issues. We have strengthened relationships with fellow EU member states. We have used these to advocate for peaceful resolutions to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and to advocate for a peaceful resolution based on a two-state solution in the middle east.

At a time when many nations are cutting overseas aid, we are increasing ours. 2025 will see Ireland's highest ever spend on overseas development aid - reflecting our belief that solidarity and partnership are essential to global progress.

While it is hard to fully measure the enhancement of Ireland's place in the world, for the first time in its history Ireland was invited to fully participate as a guest country at the G20. I was honoured to represent Ireland at the Leaders' Summit and reflect on how well Ireland had been

represented across government departments and ministers over the course of the past 12 months. I think the invitation and strength of our participation is a shining example of how wide reaching our voice and presence on the world stage is.

As we close the chapter on Global Ireland 2018 – 2025, we are now looking forward to the next strategy, Global Ireland 2040, as committed to in the Programme for Government. It will be vital for our continued success to ensure that we build on the foundations we have laid, to maximise the value of the investments we have made, and to consider how Ireland can best use its voice and its influence in a world where both are needed more than ever.



Micheál Martin
Taoiseach



Foreword by Tánaiste Simon Harris TD

In the seven years since the launch of Global Ireland 2025, Ireland's place in the world has grown substantially. This is against the backdrop of a highly turbulent geopolitical period. One that has seen Brexit take effect, a global pandemic, and an invasion on European territory in Ukraine, all of which have impacted the international rules-based order and the norms of global trade.

The successful delivery of the ambition set out in Global Ireland 2025, to grow our footprint overseas, to strengthen our bilateral and multilateral relationships, and increase our capacity to support our values on the global stage, have allowed Ireland to navigate these global challenges to the tangible benefit of the country and its citizens.

Our increased influence on the multilateral stage was evidenced by our successful election to the UN Security Council, our participation for the first time as a guest country of the G20, our continued leadership around the EU table, including as President of Eurogroup, as well as having an impactful global impact through the IMF and World Bank. At a time when many nations are cutting overseas aid, 2025 will see Ireland's highest ever spend on development aid - reflecting our belief that solidarity and partnership are essential to global progress.

Crucial to Ireland 'punching above its weight' globally is the strength of our 'Team Ireland' approach. Ireland is a small open economy, a global exporter, and a major European base for multinational firms. To protect this and navigate the economic headwinds likely to come, we need to work together to maintain our strong engagement internationally and continue to influence global economic policies.

Through a strong foundation of Irish and multinational exporting companies, together with a highly skilled workforce and increased global trade, we have built a strong industrial base and are deeply integrated into global supply chains. This has created jobs, grown exports, promoted innovation, and raised our standard of living, the positive impact of which is felt in communities across our country. The positive impacts of foreign direct investment can be seen across the domestic economy, with large multinational enterprises creating highly paid employment across the country, while also helping support activity and innovation in small and medium-sized indigenous enterprises. Since the launch of Global Ireland 2025, exports of goods and services from Ireland have recorded significant growth, positioning Ireland as a major international hub for technology, pharmaceuticals, financial services and other key sectors.

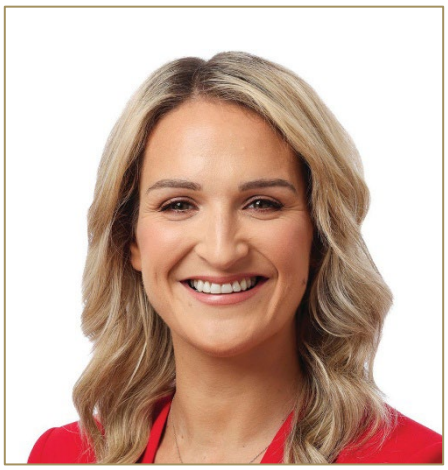
internationally, that reflects the interests and values of the Irish people.

Under the Global Ireland initiative, we developed the Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2026, *Value for Ireland, Values for the World*, which sets out the plan for Ireland to grow sustainably, diversify our export markets, and support continued prosperity and higher living standards.

While this review of Global Ireland 2025 sets out how we have delivered on our international political, economic, and people to people goals in recent years, it also sets the stage for the next phase of Global Ireland to 2040, which will build on this momentum, focusing on deepening relationships with European partners, expanding Ireland's global influence, and promoting Irish values, culture, and economic interests worldwide. I stand ready to contribute to the continued delivery and impact of Irelands presence and engagement overseas to ensure that we have a strong voice



Tánaiste and Minister for Finance



Foreword by Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade and Defence

Having concluded the review of Global Ireland 2025, it is clear that the strategy has delivered for Ireland, and that the ambition at the heart of the strategy has been realised. We set out to double the scale and impact of Ireland's international footprint and we have succeeded in both. The target of 26 new missions has been exceeded, with 27 missions - 14 Embassies and 13 Consulates General - opened or due to be opened early in 2026. These new diplomatic missions are making a tangible positive impact to our international engagement, advancing our interests and values, promoting Ireland as a place to work, to invest, to visit and to study, enhancing our engagement with Irish communities and developing important new political relationships.

In addition to the expansion of our physical presence, there has been the strengthening of our resources in key locations, such as in Washington, D.C., Paris, London, and Berlin. Officers have also been assigned to promote key sectors, including education, the sciences, finance and agriculture. We now have 12 cultural attachés across all continents, promoting Ireland's culture and our creative sector in a way that was never possible before.

All of this is demonstrative of Team Ireland in action: the resources of the State deployed and working together in pursuit of our economic interests in a world that has become more competitive and challenging than ever. And nowhere is Team Ireland more effective than when operating from Ireland House, such as the landmark properties recently opened in New York, Tokyo or Singapore.

Just as important as the expansion of our physical presence has been our impact. Ireland remains an outward-looking country. A country committed to the principles of a rules-based international order. Global Ireland 2025 has contributed to our being a respected voice in addressing complex situations and issues. Whether this is in relation to conflict in Gaza, Ukraine or Sudan, or issues such as human rights, women in conflict, peacebuilding and reconciliation, Ireland's voice is respected as one in search of solutions.

The invitation for Ireland to participate as a guest country in the G20 is reflective of this as well as our strong relationship with South Africa, our status as a dynamic and open trading economy, and our proud track record of championing sustainable development.

Our digital presence has also been greatly expanded since the launch of the strategy. Ireland.ie is home to a wealth of information and stories on Ireland: our presence in the world, our culture, our research and innovation; our creativity; our sport; our people. Global Ireland 2025 was an ambitious undertaking that has delivered for Ireland. It has also positioned us to deliver in the future, including during our forthcoming EU Council Presidency. The success of Global Ireland 2025 will be built on, strengthened and developed further in the new strategy – Global Ireland 2040 – which will provide the framework for Ireland in the World in the near future.



Helen McEntee, T.D

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; Minister for Defence

1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Executive Summary

The Global Ireland 2025 Strategy, launched in 2018, represented the most ambitious expansion of Ireland's international presence ever undertaken. Its core objective was to double the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint by 2025, through a whole-of-government approach spanning diplomacy, trade, culture, education, development, and international engagement.

This final review reflects on the progress made since the strategy's inception, with particular focus on developments since the 2023 interim review. It also sets the stage for the next phase of Ireland's global engagement under the forthcoming Global Ireland 2040 Strategy.

The Global Ireland Strategy successfully delivered on its goal to grow Ireland's footprint around the world. 27 new diplomatic missions have been opened across Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East while numerous existing missions have been expanded, enhancing and deepening Ireland's presence across the globe.

A key pillar of the success of the Global Ireland Strategy was the use of the Team Ireland Model. The model brought together government departments, state agencies and Ireland's global network of embassies and consulates to work in a co-ordinated way in delivering Ireland's goals overseas. This whole of Government approach ensured that Ireland could combine diplomatic, trade, cultural and development goals in a more streamlined fashion on the ground enabling a more unified, focused and agile presence abroad.

The Team Ireland model was further enhanced by the development of the Ireland House model that co-locates Ireland's diplomatic and agency teams under one roof. Ireland Houses were opened in New York, Tokyo, Mumbai and Chicago leading to greater efficiencies, stronger partnerships and more coherent messaging supporting Government, businesses and citizens abroad.

Ireland's voice became stronger in multilateral fora enhancing our ability to influence global debates and promote our values on an international stage. Ireland had a successful term on the UN Security Council in 2021-2022. In 2022, Ireland announced its intention to run for a seat on the Human Rights Council for the 2027 to 2029 term. In 2025, Ireland was invited by the South African Presidency to fully participate, for the first time, as a guest country at the G20. Ireland's engagement involved a while of Government approach which involved attending 24 Ministerial meetings and over 100 meetings at official level. The Taoiseach attended a very successful Leaders' Summit in November 2025.

On the trade side, Enterprise Ireland's export diversification targets were not only met but exceeded, with €36.75 billion in global exports recorded in 2024. IDA Ireland continued to attract high-value foreign direct investment, with over 300,000 people employed by multinational companies in Ireland.

Ireland's cultural diplomacy was strengthened through the appointment of 12 cultural attachés and the delivery of major initiatives like Zeitgeist Irland 24 in Germany. Culture Ireland doubled its funding and supported thousands of international performances, showcasing Irish talent and creativity on a global stage.

In education, Ireland surpassed its targets for international student enrolment and mobility. The launch of Global Citizens 2030 and Ireland's accession to CERN marked significant milestones in research

and innovation. Ireland also deepened its engagement with emerging markets through targeted education missions and partnerships.

Ireland's global community is one of its most significant assets. Diaspora engagement remained a cornerstone of the strategy. The expansion of diplomatic missions and an emphasis on working with Irish Communities abroad, particularly through the Emigrant Support Programme has strengthened the links with the Irish abroad and helped to promote our culture.

During the term of the Global Ireland Strategy, Ireland has continued to implement its policy for international development which deepened and intensified Ireland's international efforts and committed to scaling up resources and capacity across four policy priorities: gender equality; reducing humanitarian need; climate action; and strengthening governance. It is estimated that total ODA will reach €2.12 billion in 2025. Funding is channelled through our Missions, most of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, through our bilateral civil society partners, through multilateral organisations and agencies, and through multilateral development banks. Strategic partnerships with WHO, GAVI, and the Global Fund reinforced Ireland's leadership in global health and humanitarian response

At a time when many nations are cutting back on their overseas development aid, Ireland's reputation has been greatly enhanced by its commitment to increasing its aid to the poorest nations in the world.

Ireland's climate diplomacy was equally impactful. The country met its €225 million annual climate finance target and played a leadership role in negotiations at COP29 and COP30. Investments in ports, airports, and maritime infrastructure supported Ireland's connectivity and resilience in a changing global environment.

The strategy was implemented during a period of profound global upheaval. Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and escalating conflicts in the Middle East posed significant challenges. Ireland responded with agility, leveraging its expanded global presence to advocate for peace, support trade diversification, and provide humanitarian assistance.

Trade disruptions, including new tariffs imposed by the US in 2025, required swift policy responses. The Government approved a new Action Plan on Market Diversification and through its agencies launched targeted financial supports to help exporters adapt.

The achievements of Global Ireland 2025 have laid a strong foundation for the next phase of Ireland's international engagement. The forthcoming Global Ireland 2040 Strategy will build on this momentum, focusing on deepening relationships with European partners, expanding Ireland's global influence, and promoting Irish values, culture, and economic interests worldwide.

2

Overview of Global Ireland Strategy

2. Overview of Global Ireland Strategy

Background and Rationale

The Global Ireland 2025 Strategy was launched by the Government in 2018 to significantly increase the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint by 2025, through a series of strategic initiatives implemented by Government Departments and state agencies. This strategy is to date the most ambitious cross-Government expansion of Ireland's international presence ever undertaken in terms of diplomacy, culture, business, overseas aid, tourism and trade.

The key priorities of the Strategy included the strengthening of Team Ireland's presence abroad in order to enhance Ireland's voice on the international stage: to build our reputation, to exert more influence, and to be a strong participant in global enterprise, trade, culture, diplomacy, peacebuilding and development.

Three reports on Ireland's progress under the strategy were published in 2019, 2021 and 2023. The purpose of this final review is to consider the progress made since the adoption of the strategy in 2018, focussing in particular detail on the period since the 2023 review. This review identified a number of new goals for the period to end-2025.

It is a useful opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved, and to examine how our enhanced global footprint has increased our capability to manage the challenges of changing global dynamics both economically and in the multilateral system, and to equip us in responding to peace and security challenges, notably in the Middle East and Ukraine.

This review will also be a valuable tool in the formulation of the succeeding strategy, Global Ireland 2040, as outlined in the 2025 Programme for Government, *Securing Ireland's Future*. The Government has committed to further enhancing Ireland's place and influence in international affairs, including deeper relationships with European partners, by 2040. This report will help to identify key areas upon where Ireland can deepen collaboration and maximise its influence around the world.

3

Delivery on Global Ireland Goals

3. Delivery on Global Ireland Goals

The Government has delivered on many of the objectives set in 2018, and additional objectives identified in the 2023 Review. These include the depth and breadth of Ireland's diplomatic and state agency presence worldwide, in the diversification and strengthening of our trade and in our contribution to peace, security and development, at the UN, through our international development programme, our solidarity with Ukraine and in our work towards a lasting peace in the Middle East. Regional strategies have been developed for many regions of the world.

Team Ireland

27 new diplomatic missions have been opened.



Additional staff in key missions including London, Paris, Washington D.C., Berlin, and the Permanent Representation in Brussels.



2 All of our diplomatic missions now have at least two diplomats.



4 new Ireland Houses.



5 new premises for existing Ireland Houses delivered.



Ireland Expo 2025 Osaka

IRELAND JAPAN 2025 アイルランド 日本2025年

11 new Enterprise Ireland offices.



6 new Global Ireland regional strategies, built on a whole-of-government approach.



Digital Ireland House available at Ireland.ie

Ireland

Arts and Culture

12 new cultural officers overseas.



New Irish Arts Centre in New York.



Funding for the redevelopment of the London Irish Centre.



Business, Finance, Trade and Tourism

€26.23bn in exports beyond the UK in 2024, representing 71% of total global exports.



€9.42 bn Eurozone exports in 2024, double the 2015 baseline of €4.1bn.



70%+ of total exports going beyond the UK achieved by 2022, three years ahead of schedule.



By 2024, Enterprise Ireland client exports exceeded €1bn in the following six markets; the UK, the US, Germany, Netherlands, France and Sweden.





Tourism revenue of **€6 bn** in 2024, up from €5.1 billion in 2018.



Education

International students comprise **17.1%** of full-time students in HEIs (ahead of target of 15%).



Student mobilities have increased to **5,797** ahead of a target of 5,400.



Peace, Security and Development

Successful 2021-22 term on the UN Security Council.



Government decision to run for elections for the UN Human Rights Council for the 2027-29 term.



A record **€2.12 billon** in Overseas Development Aid expected to be delivered in 2025.



Assisting Irish Citizens Abroad

New Diaspora Strategy adopted in 2020, with a new one to be published in 2026.



2.2m visits to the Government's Travel Advice Pages in 2025.



4

Challenges in a changing global environment

4. Challenges in a changing global environment

In the period since the original strategy, the international landscape has changed profoundly. There has been significant upheaval in the global geopolitical infrastructure which has seen bloody conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. Climate change and digital disruption are reshaping economies and international relations. All these changes resulted in an increasingly difficult supply chain and trading environment.

In 2016, the UK voted to leave the EU, and for much of the lifetime of this strategy Ireland was heavily engaged in both planning for the outcomes of Brexit, and in contributing to work at EU and bilateral level to work towards as positive as possible an outcome for the island of Ireland and the EU. While limiting impacts on the island of Ireland, the Withdrawal Agreement seriously changed the dynamics and cost of trade between the EU and the UK. Team Ireland have been working globally to diversify Ireland's trade, and to ensure the continued health of our trading (and overall bilateral) relationship with our nearest neighbour. More recently, the new UK Government has built a closer relationship with the EU, which has led to more collaboration not only on economic issues, but on the global political and security challenges faced by all.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered our day to day lives including through impacts on health, trade routes and travel limitations. Some of the changes to working life are likely to be permanent, for example with many people working remotely at least some of the time.

Regional security issues have dominated the work of multilateral institutions as well as requiring urgent changes to global trading routes. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the ongoing escalation of conflict in the Middle East have required extensive work across Team Ireland to advocate for peace and provide humanitarian support in accordance with our values.

Furthermore, many nations have elected new governments who have different views on geopolitics and global trade than their predecessors. Most notably, the US Administration that took office in January 2024 have made significant changes to their international relations and trading policy and have quickly enacted new policies applying tariffs to trade on many goods.

Approaches to multilateralism by many countries and organisations has changed in recent years, including how the work of multilateral organisations are funded. While Ireland has maintained its funding levels, many others have cut back on development spending in tandem with increases to their own defence spending. Part of Ireland's work now is to demonstrate our commitment to multilateralism going forward.

This has had a practical and financial impact on trade, as well as global markets confidence and company's ability to plan for the future. Ireland is particularly exposed to these policy changes given our strong trading relationship with the US. These challenges are likely to continue beyond the lifetime of this strategy.

5

Sectoral Reviews

5. Sectoral Reviews

The sectoral reviews in this report provide a detailed account of how the *Global Ireland 2025 Strategy* has been implemented across key areas of Ireland's international engagement. They reflect the wide-ranging ambition of the strategy and demonstrate how a coordinated, whole-of-government approach has delivered meaningful outcomes across diplomacy, trade, culture, education, development, and citizen services.

These sectoral insights show how Ireland's presence and influence have grown in practical terms from new embassies and Ireland Houses to increased trade, cultural programming, and educational partnerships across the globe.

Our Presence Abroad

Digital Ireland House

The Global Ireland Integrated Communication Framework for Team Ireland assists in presenting a coherent image of contemporary Ireland abroad. The unified branding and design, alongside core messaging adapted from the Framework, ensured an impactful collective presence by Team Ireland at events, including SXSW 2024 and 2025, and Expo Osaka 2025.

Ireland.ie, successfully rolled out as the primary digital platform for Ireland internationally, provides an online space to present our footprint in various countries around the world. This is through political, cultural, economic, business and education links, as well as serving as a place to celebrate and spotlight Irish communities abroad. A comprehensive 'travel hub' delivers online services and pathways to services such as passports, visas, travel advice and citizenship. In addition, it is home to 100+ Embassy and Consulate sub sites, as well as 70+ 'in country' pages where Ireland has an Embassy, delivering localised and regional content publishing plans, all underpinned by the Integrated Communication Framework. In 2025 Ireland.ie has had over 40million visits.

Ireland House / Overseas property

Delivering the property elements of the Global Ireland strategy included securing temporary chanceries for new missions during set-up phase and permanent chanceries thereafter. Despite the delay caused by the COVID pandemic, permanent chanceries have been delivered to date in Wellington, Bogotá, Amman, Vancouver, Mumbai, Monrovia, Santiago de Chile, Rabat, Manila, Los Angeles, Cardiff and Frankfurt. Permanent chanceries are scheduled to open for the embassies in Kyiv and Islamabad by the end of 2025; and for the consulates general in Lyon and Manchester in the first half of 2026.

The 2022 review of Global Ireland 2025 included a new objective to "expand the number of Ireland Houses operating across Ireland's mission network, including opening the new flagship Ireland House in Tokyo". Ireland House Tokyo was officially opened by the Taoiseach on 2 July 2025 as part of his high-level visit to Japan.

Since the launch of the Global Ireland Strategy, Ireland Houses have opened in Mumbai, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago, while new premises for existing Ireland Houses have been delivered in Shanghai, Singapore, Stockholm, New York and Tokyo. Work is underway to continue the expansion of the Ireland House concept

to new locations, with plans to open the first ever Ireland Houses in Toronto, Milan and London as well as a new premises for the growing Ireland House team in Madrid. Detailed design has been completed for London Ireland House, with the project expected to be delivered in 2027.

Tánaiste Simon Harris opened the new embassy of Ireland in Washington DC on 25 September 2025. Located on 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, next to the White House, the new premises replaces the previous one on Massachusetts Avenue. The opening represents the culmination of a four-year project to realise a significant commitment under the Global Ireland strategy and National Development Plan to redesign the embassy in Washington D.C., now a flagship for Ireland's representation in the United States. The Irish-inspired design, promoting Irish creativity and innovation, highlights the endurance and strength of Ireland's relationship with the United States.

Across the United States and Canada, there were additional diplomatic and locally hired resources added to existing missions. No new missions have been opened since the mid-term review; honorary consuls were appointed in Cleveland, Nashville, Detroit and Buffalo, and in Québec City. Plans are in train to open an Ireland House in Toronto in 2027, with a premises now secured and the design stage commenced.

Case Study Ireland House New York

Then Tánaiste Micheál Martin opened the new flagship Ireland House New York in September 2024, moving from the former premises of over thirty years to the 17th floor of the iconic MetLife building at 200 Park Avenue in midtown Manhattan. Delivered on time and under budget, this major property development project was a key commitment in the Global Ireland Strategy and in enhancing Ireland's global footprint.

Ireland Houses involve the co-location of diplomatic missions and State Agencies in one premises in overseas partner countries and key markets, working under one roof, sharing services and facilities, and adopting collaborative work practices, maximising our collective impact and contributing to a joined-¬up Team Ireland approach to Ireland's international engagement.

The Consulate General of Ireland, Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Tourism Ireland, CIE International and The Ireland Fund share the new Ireland House, seven stakeholders working together under one roof delivering for Ireland. It provides a perfect hub for diplomacy, trade, business, the promotion of Irish food and drink, of our culture, all helping further enhance and deepen the closer and dynamic relationship Ireland has with the city of New York, the region and the United States as a whole.



Celebrating Irish Women in Aviation, Ireland House New York

Global Ireland Media Challenge Fund

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade established the Global Ireland Media Challenge Fund ('the Fund') in 2022. The objective of the Fund is to support the provision of information about major geo-political developments and the changing nature of Ireland's role in the world to the public in Ireland, by helping build the capacity of Irish media outlets to undertake international reporting. The 2025 Programme for Government committed to maintain and grow the Fund, building capacity of outlets to undertake quality reporting on international geopolitical events.

Global Ireland Schools Programme

The Global Ireland strategy recognised the importance of communicating Ireland's international policy objectives. The Global Ireland Schools programme was created as a platform to engage younger citizens in Ireland's international work and contribution. It involves Irish diplomats, peacekeepers, and aid workers visiting secondary schools around the country to talk to students about their work overseas. In 2025, heads of mission visited 33 second-level schools around the country. Over 200 schools have engaged with the programme since its launch in December 2018.

Global Ireland Summit

The Global Ireland Summit took place in Dublin Castle on 6 May 2025, under the title 'Ireland's Place in the World'. The sixth summit, it brought together over 500 leaders from across Government, business and civil society, together with Ireland's international diplomatic network and wider stakeholders from around the world. The expert-led panels discussed Ireland's engagement with the world and global economy at a time of geopolitical upheaval, as well as exploring sports as a tool for Ireland's international diplomacy and promoting Ireland's values and interests in a changing world.

Sports Diplomacy

The first ever International Sports Diplomacy Framework for Ireland was developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in cooperation with the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and was agreed by Cabinet in May 2025. This Framework seeks to establish Ireland as a premier sporting nation, while fostering opportunities for international partnerships, cultural exchange, and diaspora engagement through the unifying power of sport. A related International Sports Diplomacy Strategy will assist in the delivery of the Framework and be delivered to Government following a targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

Citizen Services

Consular Services & Corporate Support

The provision of high-quality consular services to Irish citizens abroad is a vital public service and a key priority for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Irish citizens continue to travel to, and reside in, a great diversity of locations, adding to the complexity of consular assistance provision.

The expansion of Ireland's presence overseas has made a significant contribution to this work. The opening of several new missions in disparate parts of the world, for example, our new Embassies in Jordan, Morocco, New Zealand, Chile and Pakistan and the reopening of an Irish

Embassy in Iran have contributed greatly to ensuring that we can provide on the ground, timely consular assistance to Irish citizens. We now have increased capacity to serve our citizens as has been demonstrated with recent crises, such as the 2023 Morocco earthquake, the ongoing situation in Gaza and security incidents in Pakistan, India, Iran and Israel.

Investment in our global footprint allows us to increase our capacity to support our citizens globally, including by providing practical consular assistance to Irish citizens in difficulty abroad.

Passport Service

In 2024, the Passport Service celebrated 100 years of Irish passports and issued over one million passport books and cards. The number of passports issued annually increased from 835,055 in 2018 to 1,061,629 in 2024.

Passport Online allows citizens to apply online for their passport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is available to 99.9% of applicants worldwide. In 2024, 93% of all applicants used Passport Online to apply for their passport. This represents a significant increase on 2019, when 52% of applicants applied through the Passport Online channel. Currently, the Irish passport is ranked third in the Henley Global Passport Index, as it provides citizens with visa free access to 189 countries.

Foreign Birth Registration (FBR) applications continue to rise year-on-year. In 2024, the Passport Service received 42,808 applications, an increase of 22% on the previous year. Processing time for Foreign Birth Registration has decreased from over two and a half years in 2023 to nine months in 2025.



The launch of the 100 Years of the Irish Passport exhibition

Diaspora

The expansion of our diplomatic network under Global Ireland has made a sustained contribution to deepening of ties with the Irish abroad. All Team Ireland partners continue to work with their communities to support the most vulnerable, strengthen our trade, business and education links and nurture our identity and culture overseas.

The Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) remains the key driver of this engagement funding community support, cultural, sporting, business, academic and other diaspora-focused initiatives. Over €34 million was allocated across 2024 and 2025 in support of our diaspora. We continued to prioritise projects aimed at the most marginalised of our community as well as working with those impacted by changes to US immigration policies. To provide returning emigrants with a single access point for information, we partnered with the Citizens' Information Board to fund the Returning to Ireland Portal, which had 1,095,000 and 281,000 visits in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

The previous Diaspora Strategy was implemented over the course of Global Ireland, and a new Diaspora Strategy will be launched in April 2026.

Our Missions arranged an expansive programme of events to celebrate St Brigid's Day with a focus on celebrating the creative role of Irish women in art, science, literature, business, politics, poetry, theatre, music and sport.

We continued to partner with EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum to tell the story of the Irish who emigrated. In 2023, we launched "Homecoming JFK" to mark the 60th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's 1963 visit to Ireland and in 2024 we supported "Entangled Islands" exploring Ireland's influence on the Caribbean. The most recent exhibition, "On the Move", explores the 100-year history of the Irish passport.

The Global Games Development Fund is a co-funded partnership between DFAT and GAA that supports initiatives that enhance opportunities to play Gaelic Games abroad. In 2025, the Fund supported 151 clubs in 41 countries for 199 projects across the world.

EU Engagement

Broadening Our EU Engagement: (Enhance Ireland's impact in shaping the future direction of EU policies, budgets, programmes, and legislation)

Over the past decade significant crises such as Brexit, the COVID 19 pandemic, the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the climate crisis and upheavals in global trade and multilateral cooperation have once again reminded us of the fundamental importance of Ireland's place within the EU. Amidst a difficult backdrop, Ireland has worked in Dublin, Brussels, across our EU Missions and with EU/MS representatives globally, to adapt to these emerging challenges and contribute to a constructive and unified EU response on support to Ukraine, the crisis in the Middle East, enlargement, migration and the emerging priority of European security and defence.

Preparation for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026 was a key focus for work across all Government Departments in 2024 and 2025, and the Presidency will provide an important opportunity for Ireland to play a leadership role at EU level and shape the Union's policy agenda. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are leading planning for the Presidency, in close coordination with the Department of the Taoiseach.



Tánaiste Simon Harris and German Federal Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul during their meeting at Villa Borsig, July 2025

Ireland continues to engage actively on the European Union's development co-operation policy and humanitarian response. In the context of geo-political turmoil and changing approaches to development co-operation. Ireland has been a strong voice within the EU on the importance of ODA focusing on combatting global poverty and making progress on the SDGs. In 2024, the EU continued to be the largest global provider of ODA, providing c. 42% of total ODA. Ireland has also engaged consistently in relation to the development and roll out of the EU's external investment strategy, Global Gateway which aims to mobilise investment worth €300 billion on transport, climate energy, education, health and digital transition up to 2027.

Regional Strategies

There are six Global Ireland regional strategies to help focus a whole-of-government approach in the overall strategy. The focus on geographical regions and the mobilisation of resources across missions and agencies, including increasingly in Ireland Houses, to achieve greater scale, effectiveness and teamwork in promoting Ireland's interests and values at a regional level is a core part of the operation of Global Ireland.

This approach has shaped the development of multi-year Global Ireland strategies for the US and Canada (2019), Africa (2019), Asia Pacific (2020), the Nordic region (2021), Latin America and the Caribbean (2022), and the Middle East and North Africa (2024)

Each strategy is focused on building high-level strategic political partnerships; developing the bilateral economic relationship; deepening and expanding Ireland's engagement with our diaspora; promoting our culture and our values; and enhancing Team Ireland collaboration.

The Government regularly reviews progress on the implementation of each strategy. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade coordinates an annual implementation report on each strategy, with all of them then brought to government for noting at the same time. This streamlined process was first used for the 2023 reports and ensures consistency and a whole of government input in each review process.



António Costa President of the European Council and Taoiseach Micheál Martin speaking to media in the Government Press Centre, December 2025.

Middle East

In line with the Global Ireland strategy's ambition to strengthen our presence in the Middle East and North Africa region, DFAT published "Ireland's Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa" in 2024.

The Strategy aims to ensure that Ireland's commitment to delivering in the region continues to be guided by our core principles, interests and values. It is designed to provide a strong framework to deepen Ireland's bilateral and multilateral engagement with countries in the region. Its implementation will further demonstrate that commitment and will seek to contribute to a stable, peaceful and prosperous region.

Integrated within the Strategy is the development of trade and investment connections between Ireland and the region, which is an important market for exports of Irish goods and services.

Political consultations have taken place with four countries in the region, as well as a Joint Economic Commission (JEC) established with the UAE. The network of Missions engages in extensive outreach with Irish clubs and associations across the region and provide consular assistance to Irish citizens in the region during several crises.

US/Canada

Ireland transatlantic relationships with North America, in particular with the United States, continue to be deeply important. Built on deep foundations of historic and people-to-people ties, our present-day political, economic and cultural ties and inter-dependence with the US and Canada are essential, both on the highest levels of our global engagement and domestically, supporting jobs and revenue.

Across the lifetime of Ireland's Strategy for the US and Canada 2019 – 2025, there has been a 50% increase in Ireland's diplomatic network, with the opening of new consulates general in Los Angeles, Toronto, Vancouver, and Miami, bringing the overall number of offices in Canada and the US to twelve.

This significant investment In the United States and Canada, has been complemented by additional resources being added to existing missions. New Honorary consuls have been appointed in Cleveland (2023), Nashville (2024), Detroit (2025) and Buffalo (2025), and in Québec City (2024) bringing our total number to more than 20.



Tánaiste Simon Harris and Ambassador to the United States Geraldine Byrne Nason photographed at the opening of the new embassy in Washington DC.

Global Innovation and Talent Attachés have been embedded in the key locations of San Francisco and Boston, in line with Global Citizens 2030 - Ireland's International Talent and Innovation Strategy. As well as three Cultural Officers in New York, LA, and Ottawa. Global Ireland 2025's objective to deliver more Ireland Houses globally saw the opening in September 2024 of Ireland House New York; in February 2025 of Ireland House Chicago, with planning advanced for Ireland House Toronto to open in 2027.

High-level political visits to and from the region continue to be critical to strengthening relations with the United States and Canada. Over 120 high level visits took place in both directions between 2023 and July 2025. Highlights include the significant visits to Canada and the US for St Patrick's Day, with then Taoiseach Varadkar meeting with President Biden in 2023 and 2024, and Taoiseach Martin meeting with President Trump in 2025. The visit of President Joe Biden to Ireland in 2023 was a truly historic event. Then Taoiseach Harris also met with President Biden in October 2024 to commemorate the centenary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and the United States.

Significant Canadian engagements include a Senatorial Delegation led by Speaker of the Canadian Senate Raymonde Gagné, and a bilateral between then Tánaiste Martin and then Prime Minister Trudeau in Toronto as part of the Tánaiste's extensive St Patrick's Day programme in 2024. That year also marked the 85th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Canada. The Taoiseach met with new Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in Ottawa in September 2025. Both leaders agreed to continue to deepen collaboration and to work together to address global challenges and advance mutual interests.

Sports Diplomacy is a major plank in our bilateral relationship with the US. The Aer Lingus US College Football Classic is an annual highlight: the 2023 game between Navy and Notre Dame, and the 2024 game between Georgia Tech and Florida State University, saw Ireland welcome a total of 67,000 US visitors, generating over €300m for the Irish economy. 2025 saw the first regular season NFL game in Ireland, with the Pittsburgh Steelers playing the Minnesota Vikings in Croke Park, creating a significant tourism boost for the whole island.

The transatlantic economic relationship remains critically important, and Team Ireland continued to support and defend the mutual benefits of open and ambitious economic relationships, supporting over 430,000 jobs across Ireland, the US and Canada. Our overall economic relationship with the US is valued at more than one trillion euros. As of 2024, Ireland the sixth largest source of foreign direct investment into the US, with investment by Irish companies worth more than $350 billion.

Additionally, the provisional application of CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) between Canada and Europe has been the basis of the dramatic increase in Ireland's bilateral trade with Canada in goods and services, which went from €3.2 billion in 2016 to more than €10 billion in 2023, with Ireland's goods exports to Canada standing at €4.1 billion, representing more than a fourfold increase since 2016.

Latin America

An innovative model was developed to enhance coverage of Central American and Caribbean countries, without opening full embassies, through the opening of an Office for Central America within the embassy in Mexico and an Office for the Caribbean, co-located with the consulate general in Miami. Attachés posted to specific embassies in the LAC region (e.g., the cultural attaché in Mexico and the agriculture attaché in Mexico) were given regional roles, covering the wider Latin America region. Regional coordination and deeper engagement were strengthened following the appointment of the first regional cultural officer. While no new missions were opened, two new honorary consuls were appointed in Monterrey and Guadalajara in 2024.

Connections between Ireland and Latin America have been strengthened through a host of events and exchanges, such as the visit to Argentina by the ESRI Director, and the Ireland-Mexico Business and Innovation Summit held in Mexico in 2024, with support from Embassy Mexico, Enterprise Ireland, and the IDA.

In line with both the Global Ireland strategy and Ireland's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, the launch of a new development programme for Central America with funding of €2 million in 2024 focussed on climate and gender programmes in Guatemala and Honduras. Ireland also increased support for the protection and sustainable use of the Amazon region, through a new five-year partnership with Brazil and €15 million contribution to the Amazon Fund from 2025.



Embassy Brasilia meet ICMPS project Projeto Vivá team and participants in Velha Boipeba HQ

Asia Pacific

The 2022 review of Global Ireland 2025 included a new objective to "expand the number of Ireland Houses operating across Ireland's mission network, including opening the new flagship Ireland House in Tokyo". Ireland House Tokyo became operational at the end of March 2025 and was officially opened by the Taoiseach on 2 July 2025 as part of his visit to Japan.

Global Ireland 2025 also commits to expanding our presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the mid-term review, an embassy has been opened in Islamabad and a consulate general has been announced to open in Melbourne in early 2026. Honorary consuls were appointed in Chiang Mai (2023) and Dhaka (2024). The Government also adopted an Action Plan, "Enhancing Engagement with India", in March 2025 setting out a series of steps to strengthen relations, including the establishment of a Joint Economic Commission.

Bilateral relations between Ireland and Asia Pacific states were consolidated through various inward and outward high-level visits, including the visits of Premier Li Qiang and the IDCPC vice-minister, Lu Kang, of China in 2024 followed by the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, in February 2025; the visit of the then-president and general secretary of Vietnam, To Lam, to Dublin in October 2024; and the visit of Indian Foreign Minister, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, in March 2025.

Bilateral economic relations with the region were further strengthened with trade missions to China, India, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. Total trade in goods between Ireland and Asia now stands at €145.6 billion, and approval was granted for the export of Irish beef to the Korean market in May 2024.

Supported by our missions in the region, the Emigrant Support Fund strengthened engagement with Irish communities across the region and a further €108,796 from the Global Games Development Fund was delivered to 27 sports clubs in the region. Since 2023, the Asia Pacific Regional Fund (APRF) has provided €770,016 to support 123 projects across 16 Missions.

Case Study

Expo 2025 Osaka

(Deliver a comprehensive programme of engagements at Expo 2025 Osaka.)

Expo 2025 took place in Osaka, Japan from 13 April to 13 October 2025 and attracted over 28 million visitors. In line with the Global Ireland Strategy, Expo provided a valuable opportunity to increase Ireland's visibility directly with the Japanese public and with visitors from across the region. It also strengthened our existing political and economic links, including on market diversification.

Ireland's national theme for Expo was "Creativity Connects People". It focused on the connections between Ireland and Japan and on the power of creativity to bring people together. Ireland's Pavilion was unique, as a guided experience, with a live music interactive component. The visitor experience was curated by the National Museum of Ireland, and the National Concert Hall oversaw the cultural programme.

In addition, a monumental sculpture, "Magnus RINN", by Cork designer and maker Joseph Walsh was installed in front of the Pavilion acting as an iconic focal point at Expo. During Expo, Ireland's Pavilion operated at maximum capacity on a daily basis.

Confirming the whole-of-government dynamic underpinning Ireland's participation at Expo, the Taoiseach, seven Ministers and two Oireachtas Committees visited Expo. Ireland's very popular programming across the six months featured inclusive events, including Gradam Ceoil, Young Scientists, the 120 EY Entrepreneur of the Year CEO Retreat, the Dublin City Council Bram Stroker Festival and Macnas.



Ireland Pavilion at Expo 2025, Osaka

Africa

Good progress has been made in the implementation of the Africa Strategy since its launch in 2019. Two new embassies (Rabat and Dakar) have been opened in Africa; trade in goods and services has grown steadily, and Ireland has stepped up support to African countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. An internal review of the Strategy was recently carried out, and preparations for the next Africa Strategy have begun.

Ireland's new flagship embassy building in Nigeria opened in 2025. Additional staff resources have been allocated to key missions, including Abuja, Nairobi, Dakar, Monrovia and Freetown. An honorary consul was appointed in Windhoek in 2024.

The annual Irish Tech Challenge South Africa, established in 2022, leverages Ireland's expertise in technology to provide support and mentorship to South African entrepreneurs.

Progress continues to be made in deepening our political, economic, cultural and development relations with Africa. The 30th anniversary of Ireland's diplomatic presence in Ethiopia was marked by a visit from then Tánaiste Micheál Martin in 2024; he also visited Kenya where he met President Ruto.

Total trade in goods between Ireland and Africa grew by 7.9%, from €2.45 billion in 2023 to €2.64 billion in 2024, while trade in services was €6.1 billion in 2023.

The budget for Irish Aid, managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is at its highest ever level in 2025, at €810.3 million, with Sub-Saharan Africa remaining the key focus for Ireland's development cooperation programme.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

In December 2023, the then Tánaiste launched *Ireland's Second Strategy for Small Island Developing States* (SIDS) at COP28 together with SIDS leaders. This Strategy reflects the commitment in the Programme for Government and provides a framework for long-term and ambitious engagement with SIDS. It is structured around four inter-linked pillars: Building our Partnership; Climate and Oceans; Capacity; and Advocacy. The strategy contains 57 commitments and implementation is underway.



Micheál Martin TD as Tánaiste on a visit to Kenya

The Nordic Region

Ireland's Nordic Strategy provides a whole-of-government framework to deepen Ireland's bilateral, European and multilateral engagement with the five Nordic countries, and, in recognition of the growing importance of Ireland's relations with the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) the second half of the Strategy's implementation has included collaboration across the board with the Baltics during 2024 and 2025.

This enhanced engagement has resulted in strengthened and deeper political and economic relations, bilaterally and regionally, particularly via Ministerial visits, including a continued focus on energy security in the Nordic-Baltic region. There has been a strengthening of the civil service and institutional relationships, with a clear focus on promoting best practice and knowledge sharing. During the term of the strategy there is stronger regional coherence and joint programming as one "Team Ireland" to support our communities and to promote Irish culture, trade, tourism and people-to-people links.

In October 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ireland and Lithuania to provide for €3 million in targeted Irish humanitarian aid funding to build school bomb shelters in Ukraine, is support of the EU's *Bomb Shelters for Ukrainian Schools* programme and the broader reconstruction of Ukraine.

Team Ireland collaboration in the Nordic region took a big step forward with the reconstitution in June 2024 of Ireland House Stockholm, the regional hub for the Nordic-Baltic region, significantly increasing collaboration and impact for Ireland in Sweden.

Exports to the Nordics by Enterprise Ireland client companies grew by 24% in 2024, reaching €2.1bn, securing the region's position as the fastest-growing region for Irish exporters for the second year in a row. This remarkable growth reflects the innovation, resilience, and global competitiveness of Irish companies and the strong, enduring appeal of the Nordic markets.

Western Balkans

DFAT is in the process of developing a strategy for the Western Balkans. Ireland's engagement with the region has grown considerably in recent years and embassies in Belgrade and Sarajevo became operational in the autumn of 2025.

Business, Trade, Tourism and Connectivity

Ireland's global trading environment has changed significantly since the Global Ireland Strategy was launched in 2018.

Crises such as Brexit, the COVID 19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, conflict in the Middle East and global protectionist trade policies have greatly disrupted trade patterns and introduced new complexities for Irish exporters.

The Global Ireland Strategy has played a key role in helping Ireland navigate these challenges. Since 2018, Ireland has deepened its presence in key markets through new diplomatic missions, Ireland Houses, and trade offices, enabling more agile and targeted support for exporters and investors. Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland have played pivotal roles in expanding market reach and securing high-value investments, while Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland have helped position Ireland as a world-class destination for visitors and business events.

Connectivity has also been a major focus, with strategic investments in transport infrastructure, digital networks, and maritime access supporting Ireland's role as a gateway between Europe and the wider world.

Implementation of the Trade and Investment Strategy

The Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2026, *Value for Ireland, Values for the World*, detailed the plan for Ireland to grow sustainably, diversify our export markets, and support continued prosperity and higher living standards. Progress on this was identified as a priority in the 2023 Global Ireland interim review. The strategy contained seven priority actions and was set against the backdrop of the major economic disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, Brexit, growing protectionism, global tax developments and simmering geopolitical and trade tensions.

A key commitment in the previous Government's 'Economic Recovery Plan', the Strategy was set in the context of complementary government-wide policies and initiatives including Global Ireland 2025, Shared Island, the SME Taskforce Growth Plan, Project Ireland 2040, the Climate Action Plan and Harnessing Digital, the national digital strategy; and it recognised the need for greater collaboration across the whole of government, bringing synergy, creativity and urgency to the suite of inter-connected strategies.

Support Ireland's Economic and Trade 'Ecosystem'

This action reflects the imperative of addressing Ireland's infrastructure challenge on multiple fronts and is now reflected in the Programme for Government and in the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity. In addition to strengthening our domestic ecosystem, the Government is working with EU and international partners, and strengthening alliances to shape emerging policies, regulation and international agreements that impact Ireland's economic and business environment, and our competitiveness.

Review and Refresh the Local Market Teams

The Local Market Teams (LMTs) are the overseas teams of Ireland's agencies and officials working to build trade, tourism, cultural, diplomatic and other relations in key overseas markets, with regular LMT meetings convened and chaired by the local Ambassador. The 2023 report on LMTs set out a new understanding for collaborative work and mutual support, in the spirit of 'Team Ireland', respectful also of the distinct mandate of the individual members. Arising from that report, there has also

been a stronger focus on Regional Market Teams covering multiple countries, and a Headquarters Market Team (HQMT) has been established to ensure coordinated messaging to and from the centre.

Positioning Ireland within Global Value Chains and Supply Chains

An Expert Group on Global Value and Supply Chains was convened and presented its final report in November 2024. Its report analysed Ireland's unique positioning at the heart of various global value chains and included recommendations aimed at solidifying and developing Ireland's positioning in this regard. Many of these recommendations are carried through into the proposed agenda of developing and diversifying our trade and investment relations.

Communicating Ireland's Interests as a Trading Nation

A communications and engagement policy entitled 'Ireland's Values as a Trading Nation' was approved by the Trade & Investment Council in 2023 and has been rolled out to ensure Ireland's interests as a trading nation are communicated effectively. As part of this work, studies of opinions and attitudes to trade among Irish people have been commissioned: generally, the results of these studies show that Irish people are quite positive and well-informed about the value of trade and investment, with some concerns about issues such as regional balance, human rights and the environment.

A new annual trade conference was established in 2023, titled "Trade Horizons", aimed at highlighting the importance of trade for Irish business and citizens. The inaugural conference in 2023 highlighted the value of the EU's Free Trade Agreements, and 2024's conference focused on Trade and Sustainability. The 2025 Trade Horizons conference organised jointly with DFAT, focussed on the importance and value of Ireland-Africa trade.

Maximising Ireland's return from EU Free Trade Agreements

A study was undertaken by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in 2024 illustrating the scope for further progress by Irish enterprises in taking advantage of EU FTAs. In April 2025, the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment organised (jointly with the European Commission) an EU Market Access Day at which senior Commission officials and business stakeholders discussed the opportunities available to Irish businesses.

Action Plan on Market Diversification

The Action Plan on Market Diversification was published in August 2025. The Action Plan, developed jointly by the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in consultations with other Government stakeholders, responds to the changes in the global trade environment that began in early 2025. It highlights the need for Ireland to deepen and broaden trading relationships with its core markets in the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and, moreover, to diversify trade to growing and emerging markets. Four pillars of the Action Plan refer to supporting exporting businesses and market access; deepening and broadening Ireland's international engagement; delivering trade and tourism missions for strategic impact and enhancing domestic readiness for economic engagement and partnership.

The Action Plan acknowledges the significant strengthening of Ireland's overseas presence built under Global Ireland 2025 and requires, for Global Ireland 2040, "an in-depth review of Ireland's overseas presence with a view to expanding and deepening this presence

where needed to support Irish economic priorities." Government Departments are currently surveying their Agencies on that review of overseas presence, which will need to feed into Global Ireland 2040.

Enterprise Ireland Market Diversification

Enterprise Ireland works in partnership with Irish businesses to help them grow and succeed in international markets. Enterprise Ireland clients achieved record exports of €36.75bn in 2024, up 7% on 2023, with all territories and major sectors recording increases, surpassing the 2022 – 2024 strategy target of €30bn exports.

Enterprise Ireland's diversification ambition has been robust:

- €26.23bn in exports beyond the UK in 2024, representing 71% of total global exports;
- €9.42bn Eurozone exports in 2024, achieving the goal to double from the 2015 baseline of €4.1bn;
- Over 70% of total exports going beyond the UK achieved by 2022, three years ahead of schedule;
- Since 2018, exports to the UK have gone from €7.9bn to €10.92bn, exports to North America have grown from €4bn to €7.3bn in 2024;
- By 2024, Enterprise Ireland client exports exceeded €1bn in the following six markets; the UK, the US, Germany, Netherlands, France and Sweden.

Looking ahead, Enterprise Ireland will conduct a comprehensive review of its global footprint to assess resource needs and strategic priorities. The EU single market remains a critical growth market, with a near- to long-term focus on deepening Irish company presence to enhance economic resilience and competitiveness.

FDI Market Diversification

Attracting, retaining and renewing FDI requires IDA Ireland to have a global focus across our three key territories to engage with existing clients at parent corporate level and to build relationships with target clients. IDA's 2025-29 strategy retains a focus on growth opportunities from existing and new clients across core sectors and territories. IDA will continue to target investment from clients originating from North America, Europe, the UK and Asia-Pacific.

As part of the Government Action Plan on Market Diversification, IDA will carry out a review of its overall global footprint and the supports needed to realise investment opportunities within IDA's core sectors and across target FDI growth drivers (digitalisation and AI, semiconductors, health, and sustainability). This review will include a specific focus on 'pathfinder' locations and Canada market opportunities, in addition to the completion of recruitment for a new position in South Korea." This work is in tandem with the interim 2023 goal to diversify our FDI source markets.

Ireland continues to strengthen its position as a global hub for foreign direct investment (FDI), with IDA Ireland playing a pivotal role in attracting and supporting international businesses. IDA Ireland has seen strong FDI performance in recent years, with more than 1,800 global MNCs now directly employing over 302,500 people across the country. This marks the 3rd consecutive year of IDA client employment above 300,000- circa 11% of total national employment.

Investments are a diverse combination of expansions, new names, projects of scale, and transformation projects across R&D, talent development, and sustainability from companies located across North America, Europe & UK, Asia Pacific and beyond. 2024 saw 234 investments in Ireland, with record levels of R&D investment and a strong

regional focus (59% of projects located in regions).

IDA Ireland's focus on diversifying investments has paid dividends over the past number of years with an increasing share of investments coming from outside North America. This share has increased from 29% for 2010 - 2014 to 34% in the 2021 - 2024 strategy period.

IDA Ireland's overseas office network plays a key role in the success of the organisation, with offices in more than 20 locations across 10 countries worldwide. These offices are strategically positioned to strengthen IDA's presence in vital markets, and to promote Ireland as a leading destination for investment.

Team Ireland Trade Mission Week

The Trade & Investment Strategy introduced 'Team Ireland Trade Mission Week' as a concept for a Taoiseach-led, multi-Minister, multi-agency trade mission to a key strategic market in order to promote Ireland's brand and impact, timed for the latter part of the year to balance the St Patrick's Day activity each March. The inaugural TITMW took place in South Korea in early November 2023 and was widely judged to be a success. The high-profile event led to progress on multiple fronts: visa-free access for Irish tourists; unlocking access for Irish beef to the market; establishing enduring relationships across higher education institutions; as well as more traditional trade mission activities.

Other Trade Missions

Each year, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland offer a programme of trade and investment missions and events to raise Ireland's profile. These are a valuable way of developing new and existing markets for Irish companies, and in promoting Ireland as a good place in which to live, work, do business, invest, and visit.

In recent years, the majority of Minister led Trade Missions have been to the Eurozone, North America, and Asia Pacific, which represent the strongest growth opportunities for Irish companies. These Trade Missions focused on promoting the innovative capabilities and competitive offerings of Irish companies to international buyers in sectors including internationally traded services, fintech, high-tech construction, engineering, ICT and life sciences.

The importance of Minister-led trade missions cannot be underestimated in highlighting the opportunities available to Irish enterprises in accessing overseas markets, and indeed in showcasing to global investors the opportunities presented by the dynamic, globally connected Irish economy and our enterprise sector. In 2025, Trade Missions took place in Scotland, USA, Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Germany and Canada.

Tariffs and Trade Disruption in 2025

In response to evolving global trade dynamics, particularly to address the impact of the US-imposed tariffs in 2025, Enterprise Ireland set up a dedicated Trade and Tariffs team in April 2025 to work with impact Irish companies and collaborate with key stakeholders in our commitment to supporting Irish exporters through these challenging times.

Enterprise Ireland also developed and launched two targeted financial supports to help Irish exporters mitigate risk and adapt strategically:

- Market Research Grant – Up to €35,000 to assess tariff impacts, and to scope new market opportunities and/or address knowledge gaps on existing or new markets;

- New Markets Validation Grant – Up to €150,000 to develop effective market entry strategies is essential for achieving sustainable growth and competitive advantage in new markets.

These initiatives were launched in tandem with the Government's Action Plan on Market Diversification, reinforcing Ireland's commitment to proactive trade policy and exporter resilience.

Enterprise Ireland International Office Footprint 2018-2025

Enterprise Ireland has significantly broadened its international footprint in alignment with the Global Ireland 2025 strategy, aimed at accelerating export diversification. Between 2018 and 2025, the agency opened 11 new overseas offices in key commercial hubs including Munich, Lyon, Manchester, Copenhagen, Montreal, Seattle, Melbourne, Ho Chi Minh City, Glasgow, Atlanta, and Geneva (H2 2025).

This expansion brings the total number of Enterprise Ireland offices abroad to 42, providing Irish firms with critical market intelligence and on-the-ground support. A strategic review of overseas staffing levels is scheduled for 2026, with priority markets identified as the EU Single Market, UK, and EU Free Trade Agreement partner countries. The repositioning of Irish business interests in the US is also a guiding factor, with plans to establish US landing pads to facilitate physical market presence.

Case Study

Mbryonics – Pioneering Ireland's Ascent in the Global Space Economy

Founded in 2014 by siblings Ruth, John, and David Mackey in Galway, Ireland, Mbryonics has emerged as a trailblazer in space technology. Specialising in optics and photonics, the company develops advanced optical communications terminals like StarCom, essential for high-speed satellite data transmission. These innovations power applications in satellite communications, 5G wireless networks, and datacoms, positioning Mbryonics at the intersection of terrestrial and orbital technologies.

The StarCom terminal, a flagship product, has secured a pivotal role in the European Union's IRIS² multi-orbit satellite constellation, a €5.5 billion initiative rivalling Starlink. This contract underscores the company's global traction, with deployments supporting telecom, and broadband services worldwide. Backed by a €17.5 million investment from the European Innovation Council Accelerator in 2024, Mbryonics has transitioned from R&D to mass production, exporting to key markets in Europe and beyond. CEO John Mackey describes this as a "launch pad" for exponential growth, with the firm's tech now integral to the burgeoning €500 billion global space economy.

Central to Mbryonics' expansion is the Photon-1 manufacturing facility in Dangan, Galway, opened in September 2025. Collaborations with the European Space Agency (ESA) have accelerated this scale-up, transforming Galway into a European hub for photonics innovation. As CEO John Mackey notes, "This is just the beginning," signalling ambitions for further international footprints amid rising demand for resilient space infrastructure.

The expansion heralds 125 high-skill jobs over two years at Photon-1, in engineering, production, sales, and marketing, growing the workforce to over 225 by late 2027. These roles, emphasising STEM expertise, will inject vitality into Galway's economy, fostering local talent pipelines through apprenticeships and university partnerships.

Enterprise Ireland provided funding, mentorship, and market access since inception. Mbryonics exemplifies Ireland's leap into the space sector, blending indigenous innovation with global partnerships. As the company eyes sustained expansion, it not only cements Galway's status as a space tech nexus but also inspires a new generation of Irish entrepreneurs.



Minister Peter Burke with Mbryonics staff

Case Study IDA Ireland's Global Network of Offices

On 15th September 2025, Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Peter Burke TD embarked on an IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland led trade and investment mission to the West Coast of the US underscoring Ireland's strategic commitment to deepening economic engagement with one of the world's most innovative and economically influential regions.

A key milestone of the visit was the official opening of IDA Ireland's new office in Palo Alto, California. This relocation marks a significant step for the agency, reaffirming its 40-year presence in California and positioning it at the heart of Silicon Valley—widely recognised as the global epicentre of technological innovation. The Palo Alto office now serves as the headquarters for IDA Ireland's West Coast Territory, which manages investment from 13 U.S. states and Mexico. The division also maintains offices in Irvine, California, Seattle and Washington.

The U.S. remains Ireland's largest source of FDI, with over 900 operations employing more than 210,000 people equating to almost 10% of Ireland's workforce. In 2025, 292 West Coast-headquartered companies had active operations in Ireland, employing over 67,000 people. Among them are three of Ireland's five largest international employers—Amazon, Microsoft, and Apple—highlighting the region's strategic importance. On average, a new West Coast company sets up in Ireland every three weeks. California plays a central role in Ireland's FDI strategy. It is the largest state in IDA Ireland's Western U.S. territory, and, in 2024, it was ranked as the world's fourth-largest economy with a nominal GDP of nearly $4.1 trillion. It is one of the single largest sources of FDI into Ireland, accounting for more than 50,000 jobs—primarily from companies headquartered in Silicon Valley.

IDA Ireland's 2025-29 strategy Adapt Intelligently, launched in February 2025, focuses on capturing new growth opportunities and maintaining competitiveness. The opening of the new IDA Ireland office in Palo Alto is perfectly timed to help realise the ambition outlined in the new strategy.



Minister Peter Burke with IDA Ireland staff at the opening of its office in Palo Alto, 2025

Agriculture

Food Vision 2030 is the shared strategy for the continuing development of the agri-food sector in Ireland, developed for the sector by the sector. This was identified as a priority in the 2023 Global Ireland Interim Review. Food Vision 2030 was designed using a food systems approach, recognising the requirement to have greater policy coherence across agriculture, food, and the environment. It contains four high-level Missions including Mission 3, "Food which is Safe, Nutritious and Appealing, Trusted and Valued at Home and Abroad". Mission 3 looks to protect and build on Ireland's global reputation as a trusted supplier of high quality, safe, sustainable food to consumers at home and abroad, built on sustainable, steady value growth.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine currently has agricultural counsellors/attachés based in Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, London, Mexico, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Tokyo and Washington DC. This is further supported by Bord Bia's network of 14 overseas offices – eight across Europe and six in other key international markets – which champion Ireland's global reputation for sustainably produced high-quality food and drink.

Since 2018, in collaboration with Bord Bia and Enterprise Ireland, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has undertaken Trade Missions to a variety of destinations across the global. The locations for the annual programme of Trade Missions are based on an assessment of potential for progress on promotion in market, market access negotiations and wider co-operation in agriculture. There have been 25 Ministerial led Trade Missions to International Markets between 2018 and 2025 including Canada, the United States, China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, UAE and Nigeria and Senegal. This is in addition to Ministerial led Trade Missions and trade events in EU markets, as well as St Patrick Day visits and multilateral events at which trade elements are included where possible.

Market Access:

Since the inception of the Global Ireland Strategy 2018-2025, a number of international markets have been opened for Irish meat and meat products through work carried out by Department Officials, but also crucially through the support of our agricultural counsellors and attachés, Irish Embassies and Bord Bia international offices. There have been new export agreements for various meat species with 21 countries between 2018-2025 including:

- Beef: Japan (2019), Singapore (2022), Korea (2024), Thailand (2025)
- Pigmeat: Mexico (2020), Malaysia (2022)
- Sheepmeat: Japan (2019), US (2022), Algeria (2024)
- Poultry: Malaysia (2025)

There have been new export agreements for dairy with six countries between 2018-2025 including Algeria, India and Mexico.

In 2024, agri-food exports were a record €19 billion, an increase of 5% by value compared to 2023 (€18.1 billion). This year-on-year growth was driven by strong performances across nearly all product categories.

Irish Agri-Food export value has also increased significantly since the inception of the Global Ireland Strategy 2018-2025, growing by 39%, with average yearly increases of over 6%. Dairy, Beverages and Beef have been significant drivers of these increases, with growth of €1.8bn, €836 million and €697 million respectively between 2018 and 2024.

International and Strategic Partnerships

The *Global Ireland Strategy 2018–2025* set out an ambitious goal to double the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint by 2025 through a whole-of-government approach. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has played a key role in delivering on this vision through enhanced international engagement with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the G20.

World Food Programme (WFP)

Ireland's strategic partnership with WFP has deepened significantly during the lifetime of the strategy, through high-level inward and outward visits, and Ireland's contributions to the Programme. Ireland holds a seat on the WFP Executive Board for the 2023–2025 term, providing a platform to shape global responses to food insecurity.

Ireland hosted WFP Executive Directors David Beasley in 2018 and Cindy McCain in 2023, underlining the strength of the partnership. Minister McConalogue undertook a high-level mission to Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan in March 2023, facilitated by WFP and marking the first visit to South Sudan by an Irish Cabinet Minister.

In response to escalating humanitarian needs, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine increased Ireland's contribution to WFP by 40%, committing €105 million under the 2025–2027 Strategic Partnership Agreement.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine 's engagement with FAO has evolved into a broad-based and strategic partnership with global impact. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and FAO jointly developed a comprehensive *Strategic Framework for Engagement* covering 2021–2023, renewed for 2024–2026. A landmark report documenting Ireland's engagement and project support from 2014–2021 was also published.



A farmer in Somalia with some of the produce grown by the Burjiwaasi farming group, who received training in sustainable farming through Trócaire and their partner NAPAD

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu visited Ireland twice during his term, in 2022 and 2024. President Michael D. Higgins attended the 2023 World Food Forum in Rome, reinforcing Ireland's leadership role on global food issues. Ireland's leadership in sustainable animal agriculture was highlighted by the election of a former Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Deputy Chief Inspector as Chair of the FAO Sub-Committee on Livestock. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine supported gender-focused projects in Mexico, Vietnam, and Palau (SIDS), and remains a core partner in the *Commit to Grow Equality* initiative.

Ireland has sponsored the participation of an Irish youth delegation at the *World Food Forum* annually since its inception in 2021, with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine having funded participation of 151 youth delegates from 49 Global South countries in 2024. Ireland established a *National Youth Food Forum*, forming a foundation chapter of the World Food Forum.

In August 2025 Ireland was elected to the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) for a two-year term. This will enable Ireland to help to shape global food and agriculture policy, increase Ireland's visibility within the UN system, and to engage in high-level decision-making that supports sustainable development and multilateral cooperation to assist countries that can avail of our agriculture expertise.

G20 Engagement (DAFM)

Ireland, through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, actively contributed to global food and agriculture dialogue during its guest participation in the G20 under South Africa's 2025 Presidency. Ireland has provided input into the Agriculture Working Group and Food Security Task Force, culminating with Ministerial participation in advancing key issues on resilience, sustainability, and equitable food systems.



Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister of State Martin Heydon, and Chief Exectuive of Bord Bia Jim O'Toole at the launch of Irish beef in Republic of Korea, 2024

Through targeted, values-based engagement with WFP, FAO and the G20, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has contributed meaningfully to the objectives of the *Global Ireland Strategy 2018-2025*. These efforts have raised Ireland's profile as a principled and impactful global actor in food systems transformation, humanitarian assistance, and agricultural development.

Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI)

Within the period Global Ireland 2018-2025 strategy, the Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI) initiative, led by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in collaboration with four State Agencies/Statutory Authorities (Teagasc, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and the Food Safety Authority), was moved from pilot status to a fully integrated division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

SFSI offers Ireland's agri-food expertise to partner countries on a government-to-government basis to help strengthen food systems globally, thereby enhancing Ireland's global reputation in the sector, contributing to improved standards in food safety and sustainability, and opening the door for other Irish organisations to do business in export markets, including private sector, researchers and educators.

SFSI undertakes capability-building projects which are funded by external and multilateral sources as well as Irish Aid. It has engaged successfully with the EU Commission, UN agencies, development banks and bilaterally with partner governments, contributing to Ireland's trade and development cooperation agendas.

During this period SFSI has been successfully operating in international markets, with a focus on Africa, Middle East, SE Asia and the EU Neighbourhood. Sustainable Food Systems Ireland has developed and undertaken over 20 short and long-term projects internationally during the period of the Global Ireland 2018-2025 strategy. These have ranged from training and study tours to multiyear food systems transformation programmes.

This work has also opened doors for other Irish exports, including Irish food (through supporting market access) agri-tech, services and education.

Case Study South Korea: Market Access for Irish beef

A key focus of Food Vision 2030, the Irish agri-food sector's 10-year strategic plan, is to grow the value of agri-food exports on international markets. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine works closely with the Embassy and Attaché network, along with Bord Bia and the Irish agri-food sector to realise new opportunities.

Gaining market access for Irish beef to South Korea had been a top priority for Ireland for several years and the subject of much effort at diplomatic, political and administrative levels over a number of years. Key milestones in the process since 2018 include:

- A Ministerial led Trade Mission in 2019, including key meetings at official level to negotiate the terms of access;
- Appointment of an Agricultural Attache to the market in August 2020;
- Minister Heydon's visit to Korea for St Patricks Day in March 2023;
- Minister McConalogue's visit to Korea during the Team Ireland Trade Mission in October 2023;
- In November 2023, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine received notification that the beef access application from Ireland had been voted on in a Plenary Session of the National Assembly with 98% in favour.

The approval process involved in-depth assessments by two separate authorities in Korea, the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA) and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS). Officials from both authorities travelled to Ireland to perform both audits of livestock systems in Ireland and audits of individual meat plants for approval to export beef to Korea.

Beef exported to Korea must meet strict conditions and the agreed export health certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine confirms that the Irish beef for export to Korea meets the conditions required by the Korean authorities.

Minister McConalogue and Minister Heydon officially launched Irish beef on the Korean market during a Trade Mission in 2024.

Ireland's success in gaining and retaining access to international markets is directly related to Ireland's excellent reputation for food safety and our ability to produce high quality safe, grass-fed lean beef, which meets Korean consumers' expectations for high quality, safe food. Irish grass-fed beef now offers more choice to Korean consumers, who, like Irish consumers, demand high standards in safe and sustainable food.

Tourism

Tourism Ireland's most recent Corporate Plan 2023-2025 aimed to support the tourism industry in the recovery post-Covid; and to re-build holidaymaker revenue to pre-pandemic levels while increasing focus on attracting value-adding tourism. By the end of 2024, Tourism Ireland were broadly on track to achieve this, when overseas visitor spend grew by over 9% on 2023, bringing €6.9 billion to the island of Ireland. According to the CSO, total overseas tourism revenue to Ireland was worth €6 billion in 2024, up €600 million on 2023. The volume of incoming tourists also increased by 5% between 2023 and 2024, from 6.25 million to 6.6 million annual visitors. This included a 10% increase in incoming visitors from North America, and a 5% increase in incoming visitors from mainland Europe.

In 2023, Tourism Ireland completed a comprehensive strategic review of emerging tourism markets – a key goal of the 2023 Global Ireland Interim Review. (including China, India and the Middle East). As a result, their Global Partnerships team was established, to take an agile partnership approach towards opportunities in markets where Tourism Ireland does not have a presence, ensuring all business opportunities for growth are realized.

During the latter part of 2024 and early part of 2025, Tourism Ireland completed an in-depth appraisal of Mainland European markets that sets out a strategy to achieve a step-change in visitor revenue from these important markets.

Tourism Ireland placed an increased focus on supporting access partners through co-operative marketing; access is now recovered and ahead of pre-Covid levels. Tourism Ireland markets direct routes to regions and Northern Ireland, with all co-operative marketing delivering in excess of a 10:1 return on investment. Supporting local tourism businesses across our island, in 2024 alone, Tourism Ireland facilitated 30,000 commercial meetings with overseas travel trade who bring visitors at scale for 750 distinct businesses. Tourism Ireland's extensive and targeted programme of activity across 13+ overseas source markets supports inbound visitor spend at an estimated return on investment of 25:1, with one in three visitors influenced by Tourism Ireland marketing.

Tourism Ireland's global campaign – Fill your heart with Ireland – went live in overseas markets in early 2023. The campaign celebrated the different ways in which the island of Ireland fills the hearts of visitors and of locals alike. The campaign had a reach of 1 billion in 2024 alone, through campaigns on TV, cinema, video streaming, social and digital channels.

Sport-related tourism has emerged as a very significant element of world tourism, with a multi-million-euro market and a huge potential for destinations that position themselves correctly. High profile sporting events e.g., The Open returning to Royal Portrush in summer 2025, the Ryder Cup at Adare Manor in 2027 and the Aer Lingus College Football classic each summer provide Tourism Ireland with a unique opportunity to highlight the island of Ireland as a wonderful holiday destination, as well as a top location for sporting events. In 2025 the first ever NFL regular season game took place in Croke Park, providing another significant boost to Irish tourism.

Case Study College Football

The Georgia Tech v Florida State University college football game took place in Dublin in August 2024.

Tourism undertook an extensive programme of promotions in the 12 months leading up to the game, targeting the fans and alumni of both colleges and encouraging them to travel to Ireland for the 'trip of a lifetime'.

Tourism Ireland supported ESPN pre-game footage, featuring travel snippets and fans live from Dublin, which reached 2 million viewers across the United States. A record 5 million watched the game on ESPN at home in the US.

The game attracted around 26,000 US visitors, staying an average seven nights, with an economic impact estimated at more than €115 million.



Spectators at the College Football Classic in the Aviva Stadium, 2024

Screen Tourism

Over recent years, there have been growing links between the tourism industry and the film industry in Ireland. Screen tourism was a trend Tourism Ireland continued to leverage effectively, as popular shows and films with this island as the backdrop inspired new audiences to learn more. For example, in 2024 alone, Tourism Ireland's behind-the-scenes footage from Bodkin, The Tourist and Vikings: Valhalla created over 6 million 'opportunities to see', with high engagement, making the connection for fans between loved screen content and locations featured.

Case Study — Tourism Ireland's International Programming Ireland Fund

Tourism Ireland's International Programming Ireland Fund was designed to showcase the island of Ireland as a destination to an international audience through high-quality and engaging TV projects. Launched in 2021, to date the fund has supported over 50 high-quality TV programmes, including celebrity-led travelogues such as Ardal O'Hanlon's The Emerald Isles for BBC2; culture travelogues including Ireland with Michael by Wexford House for PBS, Titanic, Our Secret Histories for Channel 4 and Home of Halloween currently in production for ARTE; nature documentaries such as Ireland's Wild Islands by Crossing the Line Productions for ARTE, Smithsonian, Sky Nature UK and SVT Sweden; and game show formats such as Het Perfecte Plaatje by ITV Netherlands for RTL4. Through their International Programming Ireland Fund, Tourism Ireland co-produced long-form shows viewed by millions around the world to inspire travel. Dermot O'Leary's Taste of Ireland series was viewed by 3.3 million people in Great Britain on ITV.



Presenter Dermot O'Leary and Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland Alice Mansergh

Connectivity

Air Connectivity

Global Ireland underlines the importance of Ireland's aviation connectivity to the world, stating that Government is committed to leveraging opportunities for growth through international connectivity by investing in necessary physical infrastructure.

The Programme for Government acknowledges that good connectivity, both within the country and with the rest of the world, is essential to foster continued economic growth, for communities, and our tourism industry. Furthermore, on regional airports, our National Aviation Policy seeks to optimise conditions for regional development and connectivity – both for social and economic benefits. The Government's commitment to regional airports is evident in the capital provision of over €82m for the Regional Airports Programme under the National Development Plan from 2021 to 2030.

Investment in our state airports (Dublin, Cork and Shannon) during the period to end 2024 included funding Cork Airport's runway reconstruction in 2021, and the development of the North runway at Dublin Airport which opened in 2022. Investment in physical infrastructure at our regional airports has also continued in this period.

In recognition of the very difficult circumstances faced by our airports during the COVID-19 pandemic, €161 million in aviation specific supports were provided to airports in 2021. This funding included a €116 million allocation to Irish airports under an EU State Aid approved Covid Supplementary Support Scheme, developed and administered by the Department of Transport. This funding supported a very strong recovery across all our airports as demonstrated by the record 41.1 million passengers handled in 2024 by Ireland's six international airports.



Shannon airport

While acknowledging that direct flight offerings are driven primarily by the commercial decisions of airlines, Global Ireland commits to ensuring the optimal environment is in place for increasing and improving our levels of air connectivity. This environment has grown and been maintained not only by investing in our airports but also through a widening portfolio of international air service agreements. Such agreements provide the operational framework for connectivity between countries and regions and support trade, tourism and investment on a bilateral as well as an EU-wide basis.

Transatlantic connectivity is of significant importance to Ireland. Since the travel restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic ended, not only has transatlantic traffic rebounded, but the range of route offerings and the volume of services available are at their highest ever levels. In Summer 2025, a total of 25 cities across the US and Canada were served by eight airlines on direct flights from Dublin. Strong levels of services continue to key international hubs in the Middle East, as well as direct flights to China and North Africa.

In the lifetime of the Global Ireland Strategy, we have seen the EU and its Member States and the ASEAN regional group conclude the world's first bloc-to-bloc agreement in air transport. This agreement creates significant opportunities for airlines of the 27 EU and 10 ASEAN states to enhance their passenger and cargo services between and beyond the two regions. Ireland ratified the agreement in 2023.

Maritime

As Global Ireland stated, "maintaining and enhancing our connectivity through continued investment of our ports and airports is crucial". It is fundamental to our international competitiveness. The Irish Ports of National Significance are our key international maritime gateways, handling approximately 90% of all tonnage. As an island nation, we recognise that we must be capable of delivering additional ports capacity and the importance of ports in connecting Ireland to the rest of the world in terms of supporting trade and the energy transition.

Strategic rail connection to the ports is also vital for the economy. Approximately €64m of exchequer funding was allocated for the commencement of rehabilitation works on the disused Limerick-Shannon Foynes freight line.

In line with the National Development Plan and National Ports Policy, the Ports of National Significance (Tier 1) Dublin, Cork and Shannon Foynes, our key international maritime gateways, all have ambitious infrastructure developments underway to provide sufficient capacity and connectivity to serve the import and export needs of the economy. This represents the largest infrastructure development in the port sector in Ireland since the corporatisation of the ports. In 2025 alone the three Tier 1 ports are planning to spend over €250 million in capital expenditure.

In recognition of its growing importance as a gateway to Ireland's European markets, Iarnród Éireann and Rosslare Europort's Strategic Masterplan includes investment plans over the period 2021-2026 in customer facilities, port infrastructure, freight facilities, port assets, new technology and linking the new entrance of the port with the proposed new TII N25 port access road. Located in the Southeast region, it is in a geographically advantageous position to trade with the UK and mainland Europe as evidenced with increased volumes of services in recent years.

Progress is ongoing on development projects under the Rosslare Masterplan, totalling an investment of more than €200m. In 2024, Rosslare Europort opened new freight and passenger check-in

facilities, completing refurbishment and expansion of trailer compounds. Rosslare Europort handled 235,000 freight units passing through the port in 2024, an increase of 7% on 2023, this equates to 3.44m tonnes or 6.74% of National Trade Volume. Trade to and from continental Europe has risen by 398% over the past three years. Before Brexit Rosslare had just six sailings a week - it currently has over 30.

The last number of years have demonstrated the resilience and responsiveness of the Irish shipping industry. It has adjusted swiftly and comprehensively to the changes in demand from business and provided a range of additional services, frequency and capacity options to transport goods to continental markets and greatly enhancing Ireland's maritime connectivity.

There are now over 60 weekly Roll On Roll off (RoRo) services to the EU available, an increase of about 36 sailings on 2019 levels. One-third of all RoRo traffic in the Republic of Ireland now operates on direct routes to ports in the European Union, up from a 16% share held throughout 2019. This increase in choice and frequency in the RoRo freight market has significantly increased freight capacity to continental EU ports.

Our Ports

In 2025 Irish ports welcomed approx. 300 cruise ships, bringing with them tourists from across the globe and a boost to the regional economies. Ireland's busiest port for cruises is the Port of Cork at Cobh, which is set to welcome 90 cruise ships between April and November carrying around 170,000 passengers. The Port of Cork estimates the cruise business was worth €20 million to the local economy in 2025.



Rosslare Port

Culture

Over the course of the strategy, Ireland significantly expanded its cultural diplomacy infrastructure, including the appointment of dedicated cultural attachés and the launch of flagship initiatives such as *Zeitgeist Irland 24* in Germany. These efforts were supported by increased funding for Culture Ireland and a coordinated approach across government departments and agencies, enabling Irish artists, performers, and institutions to reach new audiences and markets.

The cultural sector demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability in the face of global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical instability. Through digital innovation, strategic partnerships, and sustained investment, Ireland continued to promote its culture internationally, reinforcing its reputation as a vibrant, creative and innovative nation.

In response to the growing international acclaim and interest in Irish cinema, Culture Ireland plays a vital role in promoting Irish film globally. In collaboration with Screen Ireland and Irish Film Institute International, Culture Ireland enables Irish filmmakers to present their work at international festivals. Annual funding is provided to IFI International for Irish film programming and access to the IFI Irish Film Archive, and this partnership ensures that Irish film is represented on prestigious global platforms. Culture Ireland also supports Irish film festivals abroad and offers travel grants to filmmakers whose work is officially selected, helping them engage with audiences and industry professionals worldwide. The Galway Film Festival, with support from Culture Ireland, has also evolved into a central gathering point for festivals, offering a vibrant platform for new Irish film releases.

Culture Ireland

Over the lifetime of Global Ireland, cultural specialist posts have been created in twelve priority locations worldwide, with at least one per continent. This innovative programme, a partnership between the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Culture, Communications and Sport, has greatly enhanced Ireland's strategic cultural capacity in both developed and developing market regions, and is successfully delivering a wide range of events and special initiatives.

Funding for Culture Ireland has increased from €4m to €8m over the period of the Global Ireland strategy – an increase of 100% which underscores the Government's commitment to helping to sustain and grow the international audiences for Irish artists. In 2016 Culture Ireland supported Irish artists at over 450 events in 60 countries, with over 4.5 million live audience members. In 2024, Culture Ireland supported over 5,500 artist presentations in 50 countries to live audiences of over 6.7 million.

Culture Ireland has also undertaken several trade missions in addition to the original Global Ireland plan including to Australia, New Zealand and Canada and the West Coast of the US, all of which were traditionally underrepresented in Culture Ireland grants. These trade missions endeavoured to create new networks to facilitate touring to multiple venues when using long-haul/transatlantic flights, both for environmental sustainability reasons and to enhance the career opportunities for the touring artists.

Case Study | Cultural Officers Programme

As a priority action within Global Ireland 2025, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Culture Ireland established a specialist network of cultural officers to increase Ireland's global cultural presence and enhance our artistic promotion and engagement worldwide.

Since 2020, officers have been appointed in London, Paris, Berlin, Beijing, Delhi, Singapore, New York, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Ottawa. In addition to these ten locations, two new posts in Pretoria and Cairo will cover Southern Africa and Middle East and North Africa. The programme enables approaches tailored to requirements in each region, achieving a broader and more balanced global cultural footprint, more sustainable touring opportunities for Irish artists, and deeper engagement with local cultural partners.

The specialist capabilities added by the programme have already enabled delivery of a range of innovative cultural initiatives across the globe, including Zeitgeist Irland 24, a season of Irish arts and culture which took place across Germany throughout 2024, featuring more than 400 events and artists in 177 locations. The programme reached millions of Germans who acquired a deeper understanding of Ireland and appreciation of the excellence of our contemporary artistic scene.



Map of the world containing the network of Irish cultural officers

Case Study Zeitgeist Ireland 24

Zeitgeist Irland 24 - a year of Irish arts across Germany - was developed as a collaboration between Culture Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (through the Embassy in Berlin), in partnership with Tourism Ireland. A strategic joint investment of more than €2.5 million delivered over 400 events in 177 towns and cities across Germany, ranging from dance, music and visual arts to theatre, literature, film and architecture. The initiative has enriched Ireland's cultural engagement with Germany and deepened German audiences' appreciation of contemporary Irish arts and society, a legacy which is being built on for the years to come.

The initiative received the 2025 Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Award for 'Excellence in Collaboration', and this new model now provides a tested template for future special geographic initiatives. It also reflected the completion of the goal set in the 2023 interim review to implement a major Irish cultural season in Germany 2024 in partnership with Culture Ireland.



Zeitgeist Irland

Education

Since the launch of Global Ireland, several strategies developed by the Department of Education and Youth and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) have contributed to progressing Ireland's educational footprint globally and to delivering on Sustainable Development Goal 4, Quality Education.

These initiatives include Impact 30, Global Citizens 2030, Global Talent Ireland Initiative, and Research Ireland. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and a volatile geo-political environment in recent years, student numbers have rebounded strongly and now exceed their pre-pandemic levels. In 2023/24 international students comprised 17.1% of full-time students studying in publicly funded higher education institutions, surpassing the Global Ireland target of 15%.

Furthermore, the Global Ireland Strategy committed to increasing the number of students availing of mobility from 3,700 in 2017 to 5,400 in 2026. HEA latest data shows that 5,797 student mobilities were completed in 2022, with further increases expected in subsequent years.

Global Citizens 2030

In 2024, DFHERIS launched **Global Citizens 2030 (GC30)** - Ireland's Talent and Innovation Strategy. GC30 aims to embed talent and innovation at the heart of Ireland's global footprint. The strategy's six pillars and seven associated flagship initiatives will make important contributions towards enhancing Ireland's international engagement in the fields of research and education, through developing people with the skills and experiences to meet the needs of Ireland's economy and society, and to contribute to the global challenges of our time. It sets out Ireland's ambitions to embed excellence in talent and innovation into Ireland's global footprint and is the first international strategy to encompass the breadth of tertiary education, and research and innovation systems. GC30 also involves collaborative engagement with other key government departments and their agencies including Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), HEA, SOLAS, Léargas, Research Ireland, IDA, and Enterprise Ireland.

An Implementation Forum for GC30 was established in June 2024. The Forum will contribute to improving the evidence base of the impact of internationalisation of talent and innovation on the economy, tertiary education, and the labour market, ensuring that Global Citizens 2030 priorities best reflect Ireland's national agenda.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD to 2030)

ESD to 2030 aims to ensure that all learners have the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (SDG Target 4.7). Co-sponsored by the Department of Education and Youth, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, much progress has been made and a 2nd progress report on the strategy was published in September 2025. ESD to 2030 has been recognised by UNESCO as Ireland's Country Initiative for ESD.

Impact 2030 and Research Ireland

Established in 2022, Pillar 5 of Impact 2030, Ireland's Whole-of-Government Strategy for Research and Innovation highlights the importance of our all-island, EU and global connectivity and aims to advance Ireland's international education and R&I footprint,

helping Irish-based researchers and innovators to collaborate internationally. Through implementation of Impact 2030, DFHERIS is working to maximise Irish engagement in the European Research Area.

DFHERIS is strengthening national governance and support structures to optimise and improve Ireland's participation and collaboration in Horizon Europe. The establishment of Research Ireland was a key action of Impact 2030. It represents the amalgamation of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC). This joined up approach will strengthen Ireland's submissions for EU Horizon grants in the future. Irish higher education institutions and the Irish research community have to date been awarded €940 million of Horizon Europe funding.

CERN

In May 2025, Minister Lawless attended a signing ceremony at CERN to formalize Ireland's Associate Membership, with accession confirmed in October 2025. This membership marks a significant step in Ireland's commitment to international scientific collaboration, offering Irish researchers, students, and enterprises access to CERN's world-leading research, training programmes, staff positions, and industry opportunities.

Developing, New and Emerging Markets

Education in Ireland actively promotes Irish higher education globally, focusing on developing new and emerging markets. It has led Higher Education Institute (HEI) delegations to countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Panama, and has appointed pathfinders in key regions including São Paulo, Mexico, South Africa, Nigeria, and Vietnam to build local networks and support promotional activities.

In Brazil and Mexico, efforts include education fairs, roadshows, and targeted digital campaigns, while a new digital market partner will soon coordinate outreach across Spanish-speaking Latin America. Across Africa, recruitment focuses on Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa, with pathfinders engaging directly with schools, universities, and agents. In Asia, Education in Ireland supports in-country promotions in Vietnam through local fairs and digital outreach, enhancing the visibility of Ireland as a study destination and providing direct support to Irish institutions.

Foreign Languages

Since 2020, Ireland has expanded its language education offerings with the introduction of four new Leaving Certificate subjects—Mandarin Chinese, Lithuanian, Polish, and Portuguese—which were first examined in 2022, with 2,428 students sitting a Leaving Certificate Examination in one of these languages in summer 2025. Foreign languages are also being introduced on a phased basis at senior primary level under a revised Primary Languages Curriculum. To support this, the Department of Education and Youth has significantly increased the number of Foreign Language Assistants in post-primary schools, from 110 in 2017/18 to 206 in 2025/26. The "Say Yes to Languages" programme, a 10-week sampler initiative launched in 2021, has grown rapidly, with over 1,300 schools applying for the 2025/26 cycle. Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) has played a key role in promoting foreign language learning through resources, funding, professional networks, and initiatives like the #ThinkLanguages festival, with over 21,000 students in 240 schools nationwide set to take part in the event, running from 17th to 21st November 2025.

Case Study | Diversification of Foreign Languages Provision

Beech Hill College in Monaghan, a school of Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB), provided only French in their curriculum at the time of publication of Languages Connect - Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026. They since diversified provision to include German, Lithuanian and Polish. German was introduced by employing a French teacher with German.

The principal of the school saw the opportunity of the strategy, a new specification in Leaving Certificate Lithuanian, and associated supports to introduce Lithuanian, the home language spoken by a large cohort of students in the school. When the school launched Lithuanian for Junior Cycle, the principal described the decision as “very progressive” and Lithuanian was later introduced to TY and Leaving Certificate. He emphasises the importance of maintaining cultural identity to Lithuanian parents. He encourages them to keep their language and culture alive as they made new lives in Ireland and in doing this to help their children reach their full potential and thus make a massive contribution to Irish society in the future. He links the initiative to broader goals of inclusion and equality and supported it with developing Erasmus+ partnerships to encourage students to embrace their heritage and develop a sense of belonging. In time, Lithuanian was embedded in the regular school programme and a teacher provided initially by Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) became employed by CMETB as a result of another strategy diversification incentive of additional allocation.

As a result of the success of Lithuanian, the principal sought to introduce Polish however the school did not have a critical mass of students. As a result of the commitment in CMETB to the well-being and inclusion of students with Polish heritage, the Blended Learning for Leaving Certificate Polish was introduced. This was made possible as a result of the Director of Schools for CMETB enlisting a cohort of schools to align their timetables in order to make this possible. A collaboration between CMETB, PPLI, H2 Learning, and the involved schools has made this project a success with forty-six students from six schools now participating.

The school has also embraced the strategy by providing a German teacher, Geraldine Zechner, to work part-time as an associate for PPLI, supporting dissemination of strategy supports. PPLI associates facilitate Communities of Practice for teachers of foreign languages; deliver training and mentoring for Foreign Language Assistants (FLAs) and their co-operating teachers, promote and support awareness raising activities including #ThinkLanguages, support resources development and dissemination and attend teacher events.



Primary pupils at a Say Yes to Languages event

Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the international education sector. While student numbers have rebounded strongly in the post-pandemic era, the lockdown period has also given significant impetus to pre-existing trends such as the greater use of digitalisation and the growth of transnational education. In general, these developments have had a positive impact. However, increased volatility in the geo-political environment has had some negative impacts and a growing awareness that the consequent uncertainty creates a risk of dependence where student numbers are heavily sourced from a small number of large countries. International education is not alone in recognising that greater diversification offers a degree of mitigation from this source of risk.

With respect to languages, uptake remains low in the Technological University (TU) sector, where many institutions have scaled back or eliminated language provision altogether. This represents a key challenge to reaching the 20% target across the sector. Improved tracking mechanisms and stronger support across all HEIs, particularly in TUs, will be essential to achieving this goal by 2026.

Official Development Assistance

Ireland continues to implement its whole-of-government international development policy through our multilateral engagement, our Official Development Assistance funding, and through our continued bilateral engagement with developing countries. The objective of Ireland's development Programme - A Better World, is to reach the furthest behind first, together with its policy priorities, guide Ireland's multilateral engagement and our influence at EU level. Ireland's ODA consists of funding from various sources, the principal of which is Irish Aid, Ireland's development assistance programme, which is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. For 2026, the allocation for Irish Aid stands at €840.3 million, an increase of €30 million on 2025. This is the highest ever allocation in the 52-year history of Ireland's development programme.

Other sources include contributions from other Government Departments, Ireland's share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget and eligible supports for refugees in their first year in Ireland. Funding is channelled through our Missions, most of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, through our bilateral civil society partners, through multilateral organisations and agencies, and through multilateral development banks.



Graduates of an Irish Aid-supported entrepreneurship programme providing women in Tarawa, Kiribati, with business education and access to financial services

Ireland's Policy for international development was launched in 2019, signalling a deepening and intensification of Ireland's international efforts and a commitment to scaling up resources and capacity across four policy priorities: gender equality; reducing humanitarian need; climate action; and strengthening governance.

A midterm progress update report was produced in July 2024 looking at progress against commitments in A Better World based on the trajectory of Ireland's funding, and on our activities under each priority area. Overall, the findings were positive and demonstrated the impressive amount of work carried out by all teams and across the embassy network. A commitment tracker was also developed to highlight the vast range of work undertaken since the adoption of A Better World in 2019.

Ireland's Participation at International Fora

Our participation in the G20 this year is a strong example of our Global Ireland strategy in action. The premise of the G20 is to foster greater economic cooperation. Ireland is among a small number of countries invited by South Africa to participate this year as G20 Guest Countries; a first time for Ireland to participate in the G20. A key strategic objective for this opportunity is to further strengthen Ireland's place in the world and influence in international affairs. Engagement involves a 'whole of government' approach, led by the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the Sherpa track and the Department of Finance on the Finance track.

At COP26, in 2021, Taoiseach Micheál Martin set a target of providing at least €225 million per year in climate finance to developing countries by 2025. Alongside additional funding managed by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, this increase to Vote 27 will ensure Ireland will meet our commitment to provide at least €225 million in climate finance in 2025. This is in line with a specific commitment made in the 2023 Review of Global Ireland.

Ireland is delivering on its pledge made during UNGA week September 2022 to contribute an additional €50 million to combat child wasting over three years (2023-25). This was a specific target of the 2023 Global Ireland Interim Review. Ireland commenced the implementation of its child wasting initiative in 2023 through a partnership with WHO and UNICEF, working across ten priority countries in Africa. Another core component is the "Hanaano" programme to tackle acute malnutrition in children in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, which is being managed by Concern. The joint initiative with UNICEF and WHO on child wasting, to which Ireland is providing €50 million over three years addresses the root causes of child malnutrition. The third and final year of the programme will commence later this year.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin attended the G20 Leaders' Summit in South in November

Humanitarian Funding

The financial impact of the cuts by a number of major donors in 2025 on humanitarian response globally has been significant. The humanitarian system is undergoing a major rethink to increase efficiency and instigate long-term structural and systemic reforms. The numbers of people who require humanitarian assistance is estimated at 300 million but shrinking financing means that only a third of people in need this year will be targeted. Ireland is staying the course and has maintained our humanitarian budget in 2024 at a high of approximately €330 million. In 2025, Ireland has maintained these high levels of funding. It is likely when the final figures for 2025 are available, humanitarian expenditure levels will be even higher, with additional funding in 2025 provided for Gaza and Sudan.

Ireland's humanitarian funding is provided on the basis of need supporting lifesaving humanitarian assistance but also working towards reducing humanitarian need over the longer term where possible. This means providing assistance in a way that builds community resistance to shocks and stresses, including through multiannual and flexible humanitarian funding to our UN, NGO and Red Cross partners, and supporting early action and climate adaptation in humanitarian settings.



The President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa met the Taoiseach at Goverment Buildings, Oct 2025.

Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for a Better World

A Better World commits Ireland to reinforce good practice in the allocation of resources, and to explore new and innovative partnerships through bilateral and multilateral channels. Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for a Better World (ICSP) was launched in 2023 and is a new and innovative funding channel for the delivery of predictable and flexible financing for NGOs. It is a five-year funding mechanism which supports Irish civil society partners of significant capacity to deliver long-term development and humanitarian programmes overseas as well as Global Citizenship Education in Ireland. Its feature of combining humanitarian and development funding has received international recognition as good practice in civil society funding by the OECD DAC (Ireland's innovative funding empowers civil society partners (oecd.org)).

Following an open and competitive process, Ireland's new International Election Observation Roster was established on 1 January 2024. The 173 suitably qualified members of the Roster play an important role in the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Roster ensures that, when invited by the EU or OSCE, Ireland is represented at an appropriate level on international election observation missions to ODA-eligible countries.

Case Study | Gavi replenishment

Taoiseach Micheál Martin joined world leaders at the June 2025 Global Summit for Health and Prosperity through Immunisation, co-hosted by the European Union, the Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The Summit was a critical moment for the financing of global health and an opportunity to demonstrate Ireland's sustained commitment to global health, solidarity and multilateralism.

Gavi is an international organisation bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of saving lives by increasing equitable and sustainable use of vaccines.

With GAVI's support, more than 20 million girls in Africa were immunised against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) between 2014 and 2023. GAVI has also supported the roll out of malaria vaccines to 20 Africa countries as of April 2025, including key partners for Ireland's official development assistance programme like Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

The Taoiseach announced a 20% increase in Irish funding to Gavi for the period 2026-2030, pledging €22 million in funding over a five-year period. The new pledge recognises vaccination as the single most powerful and life-saving tool available in the face of growing pressure on health systems globally.

Vulnerable children who have not received any routine vaccinations are front and centre of GAVI's focus. This is closely aligned with Ireland's principled approach to reaching the furthest behind first, as outlined in our international development policy A Better World.

This global summit raised US$ 9 billion to support Gavi's work to provide equitable access to vaccines, immunising the world's poorest children and advancing global health security. Over the 2026-2030 period, Gavi aims to immunise a further 500 million children, save over 8 million lives and protect against up to 150 disease outbreaks.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin with world leaders at the Global Summit for Health and Prosperity through Immunisation, 2025

International Peace and Security

Ireland continues to play a constructive role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Our approach, which encompasses peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and promotion of human rights, is informed by our longstanding commitment to multilateralism and the rules-based international order.

As the world faces increased uncertainty and armed conflict, these fundamental rules and systems are being severely tested. It is more important now than ever that countries like Ireland continue to stand up for the values and ideals that the multilateral system embodies. Support for multilateralism has been the cornerstone of our foreign policy since independence. This has been perhaps most clearly demonstrated in our commitment to the UN, including our proud and unrivalled record of contributing to UN peacekeeping missions. Ireland continues to support the UN system, including the Secretary General's UN80 reform initiative. We are also again putting ourselves forward by seeking membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2027 – 2029.

Ireland is a strong supporter of the UN and the UN Treaty Body system and takes the human rights obligations arising from those treaties very seriously. The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) leads on promoting and protecting human rights and reporting periodically to UN committees on the fulfilment of Ireland's obligations under the following conventions which have been ratified by Ireland: the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. DCDE also leads on reporting to the UN in relation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, a peer review of the full human rights records of UN Member States that takes place every 4.5 years.

In 2025 DCDE convened and prepared a cross-Government delegation to represent Ireland in Geneva for a dialogue with the UN CEDAW Committee about the national report submitted in 2024. In 2024, DCDE compiled and submitted a cross Departmental mid-term report to the UN as part of the Universal Periodic Review process. DCDE works closely with the Irish



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Ireland in December 2025

Permanent Representation in Geneva and the Department of Foreign Affairs Interdepartmental Committee on Human Rights to fulfil these international obligations.

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has significantly altered the security landscape in Europe and the broader Eastern Neighbourhood region. Ireland and the EU remain steadfast in solidarity with Ukraine as it resists this aggression. The EU and its Member States are responding to the increased threat posed by Russia to European security. In addition, we are seeing a significant increase in malicious cyber and hybrid actions against the EU, our fellow Member States, and our partners.

The international peace and security landscape is also being impacted by conflicts elsewhere in our wider neighbourhood. Ireland remains particularly concerned by the terrible toll of conflict in the Middle East, in particular the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and the troubling situation in the West Bank. The fragile security situations in Syria and Lebanon, and Iran's continued malign activities in the region are also an ongoing cause for concern.

Additionally, terrorism and instability continue to spread in the Sahel; while the ongoing conflict in Sudan has led to the world's largest and fastest-growing displacement and humanitarian crisis.

Ireland recognises the need to take our own security and defence, and our responsibility towards our like-minded partners seriously. We welcomed the publication of the European White Paper on Defence – Readiness 2030. We are contributing constructively to developing the EU's security and defence, including considering participation in joint projects with EU partners to address critical capability gaps, while maintaining our policy of military neutrality.

Consultative Forum on International Security Policy

Against the backdrop of the increasingly significant geopolitical changes in recent years, the then-Tánaiste Micheál Martin convened a Consultative Forum on International Security Policy in 2023. The Forum was aimed at prompting a serious public conversation about the policy options available to the State and the implications of each of these. The Chairperson of the Forum, Professor Louise Richardson, subsequently prepared a report, which provided a summary and analysis of the four days of discussions and submissions to the public consultation. This report was published and presented to Government, and a Dáil debate on the outcomes was held on 22 November 2023.

Since then, the Government has been steadily advancing some of the key takeaways from the Forum and subsequent report. Firstly, the Government has continued to work closely with partners, including the EU, through our partnership with NATO, and with bilateral partners, to strengthen our security and defence, while respecting Ireland's policy of military neutrality.

Secondly, the Department of Defence are leading on the development of a National Maritime Security Strategy. The Strategy will aim, amongst other things, to enhance our maritime domain awareness and to protect our critical maritime infrastructure, in particular our critical undersea infrastructure. A key enabler of this will be cooperation with other national and international stakeholders.

Thirdly, the Government has continued to prioritise the positive transformation of our Defence Forces into a modern, agile military force, capable of responding to increasingly complex security threats. This includes the commitment to increase the Defence budget from €1.1 billion to €1.5 billion, in 2022 prices, by 2028.

In addition, the Government is taking steps to address the Triple Lock, the mechanism under which the deployment of Defence Forces personnel for overseas peacekeeping operations is approved. The proposed changes will amend the current system which effectively allows UN Security Council members like Russia, to bind Ireland's hands in its international engagement. The proposal will remain fully consistent with the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Peacebuilding, conflict resolution and sustaining peace

Ireland remains strongly committed to the support of conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes and sustaining peace. DFAT enhanced its capacity and programming on peacebuilding and mediation support through the establishment of a Peace and Stability Unit in 2023. The new unit enhances DFAT's comprehensive contribution to peace and stability, building upon Ireland's term as an elected member of the UN Security Council 2021-22. It leads on Ireland's peacebuilding engagement with the UN and the EU; coordinates Ireland's work on policy areas such as Women, Peace and Security; and facilitates the sharing of lessons learned from the Northern Ireland peace process.

In 2024, DFAT co-hosted high-level delegations from Colombia, Ethiopia and the Philippines to engage in lesson learning on the Northern Ireland Peace Process and Ireland's approaches to post-conflict reconciliation and community policing, as well as to coalition formation and citizen assemblies.

Ireland remains a consistent and principled advocate for peace and international law. In 2024, DFAT provided over €11.2m to civil society organisations, think tanks and UN agencies working to build peace globally, as well as providing technical and policy guidance to Ireland's diplomatic network. This support enabled action for peace at multiple levels, from global policy dialogues to empowering affected communities in a wide range of contexts, from Ukraine and the Middle East to the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and Colombia.

Ireland's National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security ensures a strong and consistent approach to our domestic and international support to gender equality and women's empowerment in peacebuilding. In 2024, DFAT launched the development of Ireland's fourth National Action Plan through an inclusive consultative process across government and with civil society from across the island of Ireland.

International Peacekeeping

A key element of Ireland's contribution to international peace and security is through peacekeeping and the deployment of Defence Forces personnel to international peace support operations (PSOs) under a UN mandate. This has been most clearly demonstrated in our proud and unrivalled record of contributing to UN mandated peacekeeping missions. These deployments are undertaken in accordance with legislation, which contains the requirement for Government, Dáil and UN approval. This provision applies in all circumstances where more than twelve personnel are deployed on a peace support mission.

During 2025, Ireland contributed an average of 430 Defence Forces personnel to various missions throughout the world, to a range of international organisations and national representations. Ireland's main overseas mission in which the Defence Forces personnel are currently deployed is the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with around 366 personnel. It represents Ireland's largest overseas deployment with a planned period of drawdown and withdrawal to follow in 2027. Irish troops are currently serving as part of a joint Irish-¬Polish Battalion in UNIFIL.

Partnership with other States is an important element of peacekeeping operations. Nine Maltese officers serve as part of the Irish contingent in UNIFIL. The Defence Forces have had an ongoing relationship with Armed Forces of Malta since 2009, providing both cadet and officer training for Armed Forces of Malta personnel in the Defence Forces Training Centre. Poland has 217 personnel deployed with Hungarian personnel also deployed as part of the Polish contingent.

Ireland also contributes personnel to two other UN missions located in the Middle East, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) Israel & Syria with twelve personnel, and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Syria, with three personnel.

In May 2025, at the most recent UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, Ireland reaffirmed its commitment to UN peacekeeping by making pledges in response to capability gaps and needs identified by the UN, ranging from offering training, personnel to programmatic funding. Ireland will continue to support and implement these pledges over the coming years.

In addition to UN missions, members of the Defence Forces are currently deployed, with continued Government approval to the EU led, EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina with five personnel; the NATO ¬led international security presence (KFOR) in Kosovo with thirteen personnel and the European Union military CSDP operation in the Mediterranean Operation IRINI with four personnel in the Operation Headquarters in Rome. Ireland also contributes observers and staff to various United Nations and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) missions and personnel to staff appointments at UN, EU, NATO/PfP and OSCE headquarters.

Ireland's participation in Partnership for Peace is critical also to meeting our obligations in providing professional peacekeepers for international crisis management and peacekeeping operations mandated by the UN and in enhancing the Defence Forces' interoperability with other professional military forces.

In 2025, Ireland's commitment to international peace and security was further demonstrated by high level visits by the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste to meet members of the Defence Forces deployed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). These high level visits underscore the importance attached by Government to Ireland's continued engagement in international peacekeeping and its ongoing support for Defence Forces personnel serving overseas.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin visit Camp Shamrock, Lebanon, 20 December 2025.



Human Rights Council

In 2022, Ireland announced our intention to run for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council for the 2027-2029 term. The election will take place in October 2026. Policy priorities to inform our campaign and potential membership of the Human Rights Council were developed through consultation within DFAT as well as with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Human Rights Committees and the Interdepartmental Committee on Human Rights.

The five policy priorities were announced by the Tánaiste during UNGA High Level Week in September: promotion and protection of civil society space and human rights defenders; gender equality and women's rights; the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons; the right to adequate food; and the rights of persons with disabilities in conflict.

Our campaign and potential membership of the Human Rights Council will reinforce and support our broader efforts towards more peaceful and secure societies, building on our legacy of our UN Security Council term and Council of Europe presidency.

Case Study

UNGA Resolution establishing a scientific panel to examine the effects of nuclear war

In 2024, led by Ireland and New Zealand, the UN General Assembly resoundingly adopted a resolution to establish a scientific panel to examine the effects of nuclear war. The last such UN-mandated study was carried out in the 1980s. Given developments in science and vastly improved modelling capability and capacity, discussions on nuclear disarmament must be based on up-to-date information.

The Panel consists of 21 scientists from around the world, including an Irish expert, with a range of expertise, who will work over the next two years to review and commission studies on the physical and societal effects of a nuclear war, including on public health, socioeconomic systems, agriculture and ecosystems. The panel will publish a comprehensive and publicly accessible report in 2027.

This is the latest effort in Ireland's long-standing priority to achieve a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. The study will deliver a stronger evidence base that will inform the world and contribute to constructive dialogue with a view to convergence in work on nuclear disarmament and arms control. Motivated by the immense human suffering which would arise from the detonation of a nuclear weapon, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, Ireland is working for the complete elimination of these weapons.

Global Health

Ireland continued to strengthen health interventions in order to reach the furthest behind first. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic de-railed progress towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3, health and well-being for all. In addition to this, new and more severe health threats have grown. Inequalities in health care and access persist and globally, health systems are struggling to keep pace with the levels of need. Recent ODA cuts by some major donors will have a disproportionate impact on global health systems in many countries where Ireland works, especially in Southern Africa. We recognise that there will need to be significant reforms across the system, and we are working to support and engage in them.

Ireland's strategic partnerships with World Health Organisation (WHO) together with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, are key to our health systems strengthening engagements. These combined investments are helping to build a more equitable health system globally – one which is more resilient and better prepared to prevent, and respond to future public health threats, including those with pandemic potential.

Ireland's pledge to the Global Fund of €65.75 million for the 2023-2025 period has been paid in full and is focused on the prevention of the three diseases and further actions to address inequalities related to human rights, gender-related barriers and the involvement of communities. This pledge to the Global Fund represented an increase of more than 30% on the previous period. This was followed by a €72million commitment to the Global Fund for the period 2026-28. Ireland also pledged a contribution of at least €30 million for the WHO for the 2025-2028 period and €22 million over five years (2026-2030) to Gavi, a 20% increase on our previous pledge.

Our sustained and strong support for the WHO and Global Health Initiatives such as GAVI and the Global Fund sends an important signal about our continued prioritisation of global health. We are committed to supporting global health institutions to continue to operate and deliver results while also making the changes needed to adapt to a very changed operating context. Within this area of work, Ireland is focussed on the needs of the furthest behind, including for women and girls, with maternal health a particular priority.

Ireland has increased our engagement with the WHO and UN with increased staffing from the Department of Health in our Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. Ireland has been nominated to the WHO's Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) for WHO Europe which is our first role on a WHO governing body since 2001. We have contributed to the development of major initiatives within the WHO including the Pandemic Agreement, the WHO's General Programme of Work and European Programme of Work, in addition to the WHO's ongoing response to the funding crisis caused by the withdrawal of the United States from the WHO.

The Department of Health has also created an additional post at our Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels to strengthen our engagement with the EU and MS on health matters.

Ireland also participated in the G20 Health Working Group and the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force as part of our guest membership of the G20 in 2025.

Climate Change

The Government's Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51%

reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as set out in the Climate Act 2021. Achieving this ambitious goal will require collaboration at EU and International level.

International Climate Finance and Diplomacy

Ireland's climate diplomacy and finance explicitly focus on the needs of countries and communities, which are least responsible for causing climate change, have limited resources to respond and adapt, and have the most to lose, namely Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. Our focus continues to be on adaptation and promoting locally led adaptation, which channels funds to communities on the front lines of climate change. In addition, we are focusing on promoting a sustainable oceans and blue economy, on addressing the effects of climate change on international peace and security, responding to Loss and Damage, and working at intersection of gender and climate action.

In 2020, Ireland committed to more than double our overall Climate Finance spend to at least €225 million per year by 2025. We will meet the target as planned, this year. Our verified 2023 climate finance spend was €159.2 million. We will climate-proof all our Official Development Assistance.

The 29th Conference of the Parties, COP29, took place in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024. The Irish Delegation was led by Minister Eamon Ryan, coordinated by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, with support from Embassy Ankara. the headline item for negotiation at COP29 was the *New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance*, in which Parties agreed a new climate finance goal, with $300B per year to be provided by public climate finance and MDB outflows and $1.3T per year to be provided by all sources by 2035.

COP28 also saw negotiations on the *Global Goal on Adaptation* (GGA), which aims to provide a standardised framework to help measure progress in climate adaptation, and positions adaptation as a top priority. After much negotiation with leadership from Ireland and Costa Rica, the final text produced was accepted, assuring the continuation of an agenda item for the Global Goal, and establishing a dialogue for adaptation actors to improve coordination.

At COP30 in Belem, Brazil, the Irish delegation was led by Taoiseach Micheal Martin. This COP was an 'implementation COP', with the focus spread over all key areas (including. mitigation, adaptation, finance, just transition, capacity building etc.). COP30 was a key milestone for Team Ireland, as we prepare for COP31, at which Ireland will hold the Presidency of the EU and lead the COP negotiations on its behalf.



Members of Climate KIC, including CEO Kirsten Dunlop and members from the Judging Panel

6. Table of Achievements

Goal	Status
Expanding Our Missions	
1. Open at least 26 new diplomatic missions.	Achieved
2. Expand the number of Ireland Houses operating across Ireland's mission network, including opening the new flagship Ireland House in Tokyo in 2024.*	Achieved
3. Ensure increased impact in shaping the future direction of the EU, its policies, budgets, programmes and legislation in areas that are of strategic importance to Ireland.	Ongoing
4. Maintain support among our international partners for Ireland's unique concerns in the negotiations on Brexit – including on the peace process and Northern Ireland – and our interest in a deep and comprehensive future relationship with the UK.	Achieved & Ongoing
5. Maintain a strong relationship with the UK and its constituent parts as it leaves the EU – mitigating potentially negative impacts for the country.	Achieved & Ongoing
6. Enhance Ireland's impact in shaping the future direction of EU policies, budgets, programmes, and legislation, particularly in preparation for Ireland's Presidency of the EU in 2026, and via our ongoing Presidency of the Eurogroup, our programmes to mark EU50, and through increased representation of Irish citizens in the EU institutions.*	Ongoing
7. Consolidate the strong foundations already in place for Irish as an official language of the EU and continue to raise awareness about the opportunities arising from this status for the language among the public, officials, and elected representatives.*	Ongoing
8.Fully implement the five whole-of-government regional strategies and two country-specific strategies.*	Ongoing
9. Develop a new regional strategy for the Middle East and North Africa by end 2023.*	Achieved

10. Increase diversification in trade and investment flows, generating greater economic opportunity for Ireland, including in countries and regions in which Ireland is currently less well-known.	Achieved & Ongoing
11. Create new health attaché posts in Brussels and Geneva and step up our engagement in EU and WHO global health planning and coordination.*	Achieved
12. Develop a comprehensive cross-Government attaché programme which would place experts in areas such as Technology, Science, International Education, Research and Innovation, Migration, Climate, and culture in targeted Missions around the world. *	Achieved
13. Build on the legacy of our UNSC term and Council of Europe Presidency by seeking election to the UNHRC for the 2027-2029 term and through our leadership role as co-facilitator for the negotiations on the political declaration of the UN SDG Summit in September 2023.*	Ongoing
14. Advance Ireland's economic and trading interests in multilateral contexts, including the WTO and OECD, secure greater support for a rules-based world trading environment, benefiting Ireland's exporters, supporting inward FDI and increasing opportunities for our enterprise and people.	Achieved & Ongoing
15. Deliver a comprehensive programme of engagements at Expo 2025 Osaka.*	Achieved

International Development

16. Advance Ireland's values and signature foreign policies, including the promotion of peace, disarmament, human rights, greater equality, and justice, developing our strategic interest in a safer, more peaceful, more equal, more prosperous world; and providing the basis for a successful campaign for election to the UN Security Council.	Achieved & Ongoing
17. Contribute to the global fight against poverty and hunger, and the promotion of equality and justice and sustainable development, amplified in line with a well-managed expansion in our aid programme, working towards 0.7% of GNI by 2030.	Achieved & Ongoing

18. Deliver on Ireland's pledge during UNGA week 2022 to contribute an additional €50 million to combat child wasting over 3 years (2022-2024).*	Achieved & Ongoing
19. More than double our overall Climate Finance spend to at least €225 million per year by 2025. *	Achieved & Ongoing

Digital Footprint

20. Implement a global communications strategy that is co-ordinated across all relevant stakeholders in order to present a unified image of Ireland as a good place in which to live, work, do business, invest and visit.	Achieved
21. Develop an enhanced Ireland House model both online (www.ireland.ie) and with relevant missions, and establish www.ireland.ie as the central digital hub for information relating to the Government's international engagement, providing a platform for showcasing Ireland.	Achieved
22. Develop Global Ireland digitally, including a comprehensive social media programme, and a corresponding media communications programme with targeted media partnerships, to promote Ireland internationally.	Achieved
23. Implement a programme to optimise the visual identity for Ireland's embassies, consulates and other missions, fully aligned with the new streamlining of the Government of Ireland identity at home.	Achieved
24. Deliver consistent global image and messaging for Ireland through leveraging data on and insights into perceptions of Ireland.	Achieved
25. Expand Ireland's digital reach into 10 new tourism markets.	Ongoing
26. Implement integrated communication strategy for Ireland internationally with ireland.ie as the primary digital platform. *	Achieved
27. Expand the digital reach of exporting firms through Enterprise Ireland's Irish Advantage campaign to 40+ sectors and 70+ markets.	Ongoing

28. Improve Ireland's 'brand' reputation and recognition on relevant country brand and sector-specific indices (e.g. FDI reputation, Tourism reputation, Agri-food reputation, etc.).	Ongoing

Culture and Arts

29. Grow Culture Ireland-supported activities internationally to reach live audiences of 5 million, and media/online audiences of 20 million per annum.	Achieved
30. Establish Irish Cultural Centre networks in all priority markets.	Achieved
31. Support Irish Arts Centres in New York, Paris and London.	Achieved
32. Expand assistance for promoting Irish arts and culture internationally, implementing Culture Ireland's 2022-2025 strategy, appointing Cultural Officers in seven new locations, and furthering the development of international cultural capital projects. *	Achieved & Ongoing
33. Implement a major Irish cultural season in Germany 2024 in partnership with Culture Ireland. *	Achieved
34. Implement an annual programme of region-specific international campaigns promoting Ireland's culture and media to new and growth markets and audiences, over the period 2018-2025. *	Achieved

Tourism, Trade and Investment

35. Reset our tourism targets and launch a new tourism strategy in 2023, including with new ambitions for sustainable tourism and for emerging markets. *	Achieved
36. Attract major sporting events to Ireland and ensure Team Ireland benefits and linkages. *	Ongoing
37. Accelerate diversification of FDI source markets, doubling growth in IDA-supported project investments from non-US markets in the period 2018-2024	Achieved

38. Accelerate diversification of export markets by Enterprise Ireland clients, with the ambition to: • double the total value of EI client exports outside the UK from the 2015 baseline by 2025; • double Eurozone exports by 2025; and • increase the diversification of client exports into new markets, with at least 70% of exports going beyond the UK by 2025.	Achieved
39. Progress implementation of the new trade and investment strategy, Values for Ireland, Values for the World (2022-2026), including: • a highly collaborative joined-up approach to country engagement with refreshed 'Local Market Teams' covering 35 key markets across the world; and • an annual Global Ireland 'all of Government' trade mission, 2023-2025. *	Achieved
40. Develop the tourism sector, including by tripling revenues from developing markets, including China, to €600 million a year by 2025, and doubling revenue from both the US and German markets by 2025.	Ongoing
41. Achieve diversification of FDI source markets, doubling growth in IDA-assisted project investments from non-US markets from a 2018 baseline. *	Achieved
42. Achieve the export diversification targets set in 2018 to accelerate diversification of export markets by Enterprise Ireland clients with the ambition to double the total value of EI client exports outside the UK from the 2015 baseline by 2025; double Eurozone exports by 2025; and increase the diversification of client exports into new markets, with at least 70% of exports going beyond the UK by 2025 with a value of €21 billion. *	Achieved
43. Develop and diversify international markets and achieve export growth targets set out in the Food Vision 2030 strategy, Ireland's ten-year strategic development plan for the agriculture, food, drink, and fisheries sectors. *	Achieved

Education

44. Accelerate progress towards the target of having international students represent 15% of the total full-time student population.	Achieved
45. Reset our international education targets and launch a new International Education, Research and Innovation strategy in 2023. *	Achieved

46. Increase the economic output value of international education to the Irish economy to €2.7 billion per annum by 2025.	Ongoing
47. Double the number of Government of Ireland scholarships to 120 per annum by 2025.	Not achieved
48. Increase the number of higher-education students availing of a mobility opportunity under the Erasmus+ programme from 3,700 in 2017 to 5,400 in 2026.	Not achieved
49. Introduce a curricular specification for new learners of Mandarin Chinese for the Leaving Certificate and curricular specifications for heritage speakers of Polish, Lithuanian and Portuguese, with implementation in 2020 for first Leaving Certificate exam 2022.	Achieved
50. Increase the number of post primary schools offering two or more foreign languages and increase the number of students sitting two languages for state examinations by 25% by 2026.	Achieved
51. Increase the proportion of higher-education students studying a foreign language, in any capacity, as part of their course to 20% by 2026.	Ongoing

Diaspora

52. Develop a new policy and strategic approach to supporting our citizens overseas and diaspora networks internationally, including our traditional, affinity and return diaspora.	Ongoing
53. Complete a review of implementation of the current diaspora policy in 2018. Work on a new strategy will begin in 2019 with a view to its launch in Q1 2020.	Ongoing
54. Develop and implement a capital investment programme for global cultural infrastructure in high-profile cities, as a strategic means of supporting the Irish diaspora.	Achieved

* Goals added to the Strategy following 2023 mid-Strategy Review.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

Global Ireland 2025 marked a step change in Ireland's approach to our international engagement. With the stated overarching ambition to double our global impact, it has made remarkable strides in advancing Ireland's interests, despite the many challenges that could have stalled progress in the period since 2018.

In a period of geopolitical turbulence our enhanced engagement, including our footprint overseas, has been essential in protecting Ireland's influence, and allowing us to respond to trading and economic changes.

The Team Ireland and Ireland House Models have proven to be a great success. Combining diplomatic, trade, cultural and development goals in a more streamlined fashion on the ground enabling a more unified, focused and agile presence abroad.

As well as an increased presence by our mission network and state agencies, we have greatly increased our cultural reach globally, deepening our links to our diaspora, and increasing our connections with other communities around the world.

The Global Ireland Strategy has also enhanced Ireland's voice on the global stage. At time of ever shifting global dynamics, it is more important than ever that Ireland uses its voice loudly in support of our principles, and that we use our influence bilaterally and multilaterally as effectively as possible.

As the current Global Ireland strategy draws to a close and we look to the development of the Global Ireland 2040 Strategy it is essential to reflect on the key lessons learned, highlight the successes and identify those areas that can be strengthened to ensure that Ireland can continue to adapt and grow its voice in an increasingly difficult and complex global environment.

Global Ireland Review

Prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach
January 2026

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